



**Programs for Parents, Inc.**  
 Comprehensive Services for Families & Children

# Childcare Matters

## Building Your Home Library

Newsletter 104  
 Parent Edition  
 July 2007

### *This Month's Theme:* **Summer Literacy**

*Those lazy days of summer are perfect for sitting under a tree and reading a great book. Make reading fun with material that grabs young readers.*

What's Inside?

### Summer Book Lists

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Next Month

**Child Development Basics: 3 - 6 months**

If you have a child over 6 months, you need to have a book corner with books that will keep his young mind interested and entertained by the written word. Your home library should change and grow as your child changes and grows. The following are some general guidelines for developing a library corner that has a wide variety of interesting material. If you couple this with borrowed material from your local library, you should have everything you need to expose your child to fun and educational literature experiences.



choosing a fictional picture book, look for something your child can relate to. Whenever I have read a book that no one seems to want to listen to, I have found that I mistakenly chose a book that I understood, but had nothing familiar to

### **Fiction**

Fictional stories are those that stem from the writer's imagination. They may be based on fact or historical events, but the stories are not true. Most of the material you see in the preschool section of the bookstore or library will be fictional. These are the stories that grab your child's imagination through the text, illustrations or both and hold their attention. Toddlers will be especially attracted to fiction that is familiar. *Good Night Moon* will always be popular because it's a simple retelling of a bedtime ritual, something all toddlers understand. When

the toddlers. For instance: during an art theme month, I chose an incredibly beautiful picture book about a child visiting an art museum. The illustrations contained some of history's most famous art work. The book, written for toddlers, was informative and eye catching, but had nothing toddlers could latch on to. However, they loved *Mouse Paint*, a story where three white mice dive into jars of paint and then create new colors as they run around and the colors mix. They can connect with the paint and being covered in paint. The paint is familiar, not the beautiful works of art, so

gloriously illustrated in the first story. Keep in mind, the familiarity does not have to be something concrete. It can also be a familiar feeling, moral dilemma, challenge or a favorite color, sound or smell.

You can also choose a fictional story that extends something that is familiar. These stories will grab your child's attention and then add ideas or information to the known subject matter. Once you understand how to spot the familiar, then choose anything you think will be fun and add it to your library.

## Nonfiction

Nonfictional literature is based on fact. The objective is to pass on information to your child. Your home library should contain some factual material. But just like preschool fiction, it should be facts that a preschooler can connect with. A book about bugs, which most toddlers have seen, will be a big hit, while a book about colonial America will go unnoticed unless the writer can connect the story to something familiar, such as a child living in that period telling history through his eyes. Toddlers love dinosaurs because they're an extension of familiar animals with accentuated physical characteristics. One of the best loved nonfiction books used at story hours is a large text about very strange and far-out animals. The children connect with the idea of a living animal and the text extends that idea to something new.

Within the nonfiction genre you'll find a group of books that presents facts through a fictional story. American Girl books illustrate this perfectly. Reading dry history can be quite boring, however told through the eyes of a school age girl the history comes to life. The reader is unaware that they are absorbing historical facts. The Magic School Bus Series also does the same. The teacher and the bus are fictional, however the information and facts learned on the journey are real. This is a wonderful way to get children who are not attracted to nonfiction involved.

## Biographies

Biographies tell the story about real people. They're an important part of your library, because they illustrate in a very real way, our human capabilities. Many writers have written biographical material that is suitable for toddlers. At this age you should always choose stories about adults who have lived what you believe is a morally and ethically sound life. Young children will mimic adults they perceive to be heroes, so choose carefully. There have been picture books written about Martin Luther King, presidents, sports heroes and others who have fought for what they believed was right.

For those who are very young stick to stories about people they see every day. These are not officially biographies, but they serve the same purpose. Stories about firemen, mailmen, pilots, bus drivers, bakers, mothers and fathers all give toddlers a peek into adult life.

## Reference Books

Reference books include children's dictionaries and encyclopedia. While they don't sound very exciting, I have worked with children (usually boys) who just love to read down the lists of words and subject descriptions. Children's dictionaries should always have pictures and short, easy to understand definitions.

Encyclopedia for young children are often published by subject. Both DK Publishers and National Geographic publish encyclopedia by subject matter that combine award winning photography with organized, easy to understand text. Have your child help you pick the subject matter that interests him.

## Poetry

Poetry and books with rhyming text should be a part of every library. The most obvious reason is that they are fun to read and listen to. Children also seem to memorize the text, giving them the feeling that they are reading the book, and in fact as they recite and turn the pages, they are making a connection

between what they see and what they say. You'll find many poetry anthologies at your book store or library. Children love Shel Silverstein and Jack Prelutsky, who make them laugh. Caroline Kennedy has also published a sensitive collection of timeless children's poetry.

## Book Formats

Luckily for preschool parents, books come in many formats. If you have a choice, always buy your book in board book format or heavy cardboard. It will last much longer and you'll be much less worried about your child having free access to your library. If you have an infant, you can even purchase cloth books that can be chewed without damage. If your choice is not available in heavy cardboard, by all means go ahead and buy the book with paper pages and allow your child to read it at will. There's nothing wrong with a book that has taped pages. It's been well read.

Pop-up and pull-tab books are lots of fun for toddlers with busy hands, as long as you're okay with the fact that they will be played with and wear out. While the designs have become sturdier, you can still expect these to be damaged by curious toddlers under three and older children who want to explore how they work. Use these for special occasion gifts.

Once you know how to choose books, you can build a library that will start your child off on the road to loving literature. Add books often by borrowing from the library or taking a weekly trip to the bookstore with the family and choosing a book. Always ask around for parents who are cleaning out old books to make room for new ones. A book doesn't have to be "new" to add some excitement to your carefully chosen collection.



# 2007 Award Winning Books

## 2007 Caldecott Medal Winners

### Winner

**Flotsam** by David Wiesner - A young boy gathers little bits of flotsam treasures at the beach.

### Honors

**Gone Wild: An Endangered Animal Alphabet** by David McLimans  
Animal, letter or both? The illustrator melds the images together to form new intriguing black and white illustrations.

**Moses: When Harriet Tubman Led Her People to Freedom**  
by Carole Boston Weatherford

A conversation between God and Harriett Tubman leads her to freedom and helps her lead others. This book also won the 2007 Coretta Scott King Award for Illustration

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## 2007 Coretta Scott King Award (Illustrated Books)

### Illustrator Winner

**Moses: When Harriet Tubman Led Her People to Freedom**  
by Carole Boston Weatherford Illustrated by Kadir Nelson  
see description above

### Honors

**Poetry for Young People** by Langston Hughes  
Illustrated by Benny Andrews

A collection of poetry by Langston Hughes

**Jazz** by Walter Dean Myers

Illustrated by Christopher Myers

Fifteen expressive poems that celebrate the jazz era.

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## ALA's Notable Children's Books

This list is too long to print all the winning entries. Please go to [www.ala.org](http://www.ala.org) for a complete list.

**Once Upon a Banana** by David Small

A banana peel sets off a series of hysterical events in this nearly wordless picture book.

**Below** by Nina Crews

Discover what lies below in the places we cannot see.

**Tunjur! Tunjur! Tunjur!** by Alik Arzoumanian

A Palestinian folktale about the granting of a wish for a child

**The Adventures of Dish and Spoon** by Mini Grey

A new look at an old nursery rhyme.

## NY Times Best Seller List

**Fancy Nancy** by Jane O'Conner

Fancy Nancy loves glitz and glamour and must decorate the world to her liking, even her family.

**Fancy Nancy and the Posh Puppy**  
by Jane O' Connor - Fancy Nancy finds the perfect pup to adorn to her liking.

**Someday** by Alison McGhee

A mother dreams of her child's full and rewarding future.

**Flotsam** by David Wiesner

see Caldecott Winners

## Theodore Seuss Geisel Award

**Zelda and Ivy: The Runaways**

by Laura McGee Kvasnosky

A beginning reader about the antics of two sisters who love adventure.

## Washington's Children Choice Award

**Sweet Tooth** by Margie Palatini

Illustrator Jack E. Davis

Stewart's sweet tooth doesn't just nudge him. It SCREAMS.

## Books for Adults

Children's Literature: Briefly  
by James Jacobs, Katsuhiko Ogata and Michael Tunnell

A text that goes over each genre and the best way to build your library. Includes favorite picks and a CD with 15,000 searchable book titles.

# Fun Summer Picture Books

## For Your Youngest Reader



### **One Bear, One Dog** by Paul Strickland

Rhyming text introduces baby to many animal characters until the last “one” viewed in the mirror on the last page.

### **Daddy’s Girl** by Garrison Keillor

A tender story about the relationship between Dad and his daughter.

### **Counting Kisses** by Karen Katz

A crying baby is lulled to sleep through a series of loving kisses.

### **Bright Babies First Words** by Priddy Books

Deeply saturated color drawings illustrate some simple words.

### **Taggies Books**

Soft fleece crib books with textured tags that help babies turn the cloth pages.



## For Your Toddlers

### **A Second Is a Hiccup** by Hazel Hutchins

Descriptions of events that help children understand the concept of time.

### **Let It Shine** by Ashley Bryan

Three traditional spirituals are illustrated helping children to understand their deep meaning.

### **Alligator Boy** by Cynthia Rylant

A bored little boy decides he’s going to spend the day pretending to be an alligator. (Rhyming Text)

### **Mahalia Mouse Goes to College** by John Lithgow

Mahalia Mouse overcomes some challenges to earn her college degree.

### **I Saw an Ant on a Railroad Track** by Joshua Prince

Can Jack save the life of an ant blindly walking on a railroad track. (Rhyming Text)

### **Duck at the Door** by Jackie Urbanovic

A duck disrupts a family who lets him stay for the winter after losing his flock.

### **No More Bottles for Bunny** by Bernnetta Ford

Giving up the bottle is certainly a challenge for bunny, but one that can be overcome.

### **I’m Big Enough** by Amber Stewart

Bean the Bunny learns she can move on without her favorite blanket.

**Summer Beat** by Betsy Franco - Feel, hear and see the rhythms of carefree summer days.

# More Picture Books

## For Your School Age Child

**Dragons and Other Beasts - Abridged and Illustrated by Kenneth Grahame and Inga Moore** - The Reluctant Dragon and the Book of Beasts are retold with fresh, contemporary illustrations.

**A Blue So Blue by Jean Francois Dumont**

A young artistic boy imagines the perfect blue and sets off to find it, only to discover it was very close by.

**Old Turtle and the Broken Truth**

Old Turtle passes on a tale about the truth and power of love. An important story for children and adults.

**The Librarian of Basra by Jeanette Winter**

A true story about an Iraqi librarian who tries to save all the books from the war around her.

**Mercy Watson Goes for a Ride by Kate DiCamillo**

Mercy, a plump pink pig, takes an adventurous ride in a 1959 pink Cadillac.

**America Is by Louise Borden**

A positive look at America for children who have grown up in difficult times.

“The more that  
you read, the  
more things you  
will know. The  
more that you  
learn, the more  
places you’ll go.”

Dr. Seuss

## For All Who Love Poetry

**Poems to Read to the Very Young**

By Eloise Wilkins - Poems for toddlers from our most beloved poets.

**Collected Poems for Children by Ted Hughes**

Sometimes witty, sometimes thought provoking, but always entertaining poetry for school age children.



## For Those Who Like Facts

**Team Moon by Catherine Thimmesh**

Landing on the moon takes 400,000 people working together, all who have different knowledge and skills.

**A Seed Is Sleepy by Diane Hutts Aston**

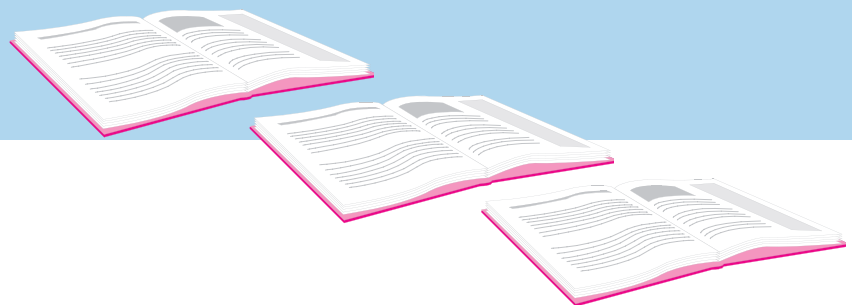
A seed’s life is far more exciting than one might think.

**Better Homes and Gardens New Junior Cookbook**

What better time than summer to have children explore their creativity through cooking.

**Body by Richard Walker**

Computer generated 3D pictures capture the magical working of the human body. Includes an Interactive CD



## Summer Water Safety Tips

There's no better fun in summer than playing with water, as long as you keep it safe. The following are guidelines for keeping your baby or toddler safe in a wading pool. If you're planning on using a pool that's larger than one you can fill and dump on a daily basis, call Programs for Parents to make sure the pool and the pool area are within the safety guidelines of your registration.

Know CPR before you decide to have your child and his friends play in a pool.

Do not fill the pool with more than three inches of water. This is plenty of water to help toddlers cool off and enough for them to float their toys.

You must **NEVER TAKE YOUR EYES OFF CHILDREN** while they are playing with water, whether they are presently in the pool or not. Do not answer the phone, get their snack or leave the area for any reason. Do not use floaty devices on them while you run inside quickly. Plan beforehand and prepare the area, by bringing out diapers, wipes, towels and extra juice, crackers and water.

Children love to play fill and dump with the hose. Make sure the hose is on very low pressure. A trickle of water is fine for toddlers. Make sure they use buckets smaller than their head. Children under the age of one very often drown in larger buckets. (Water Safety USA, 2007)

If you notice a child has had a diaper accident in the pool, remove the children and dump the pool. Disinfect and rinse well before you refill.

It sounds like a lot of work. But once you discover a workable pool routine, your life can be quite relaxing. Water and water toys will keep your child occupied for quite some time. Enjoy the summer and the entertainment nature has provided.

## WARMLINE

Providing you with practical, accurate information on health, behavior issues and regulatory information relating to the children in your care.

**1-800-713-9006**



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## You Asked?

Send your questions to  
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we may answer them in the newsletter.