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Editors' Pick of the Month

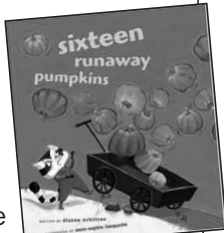
Sixteen Runaway Pumpkins by Dianne Ochiltree

Who it's for:

Little pre-reading pumpkins, of course!

Why we chose it: This rollicking rhyme helps build counting skills

Parents say: "I want to be a pumpkin for Halloween now!"



How Do Dinosaurs Play with Their Friends? by Jane Yolen and Mark Teague

Who it's for:

Preschoolers diagnosed with dinosaur hysteria

Why we chose it: Shows examples of social skills for young children

Parents say: "My favorite was the T-Rex."



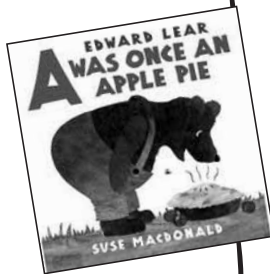
A Was Once an Apple Pie by Edward Lear

Who it's for:

Every child, from Aaron to Zoey!

Why we chose it: Spectacular art highlights the ABCs

Parents say: "Apple pie...yummy!"



Beyond Books

Take family field trips that relate to books your child is reading. If you picked a seaside story, visit a lake or ocean, then point out the words she just read: water, sand, and shells.

Choosing the Right Books

To surround your preschooler with good books at home, start with favorites from your own childhood. Trust award winners and recommendations from teachers or librarians. Ask your child's opinion, and remember that what worked once may work again: If you know he liked a particular author, illustrator, or series, try other titles from the same creators. Don't worry if he wants a book about a cartoon hero rather than a famous children's classic. Simply forming a love of books is valuable. As you build your home library, include:

- **A range of reading levels.** Have learn-to-read books (like those his teacher uses) and more advanced ones you can read together to introduce new words and concepts.
- **Stories he'll relate to.** Your early learner needs books that speak to his experiences. Tales of a nervous mouse on his first day of school or a boy who loses his toy will draw him in.
- **A mix of fiction and nonfiction.** Even if he only wants to hear one book over and over again, have other types of stories on hand and encourage him to pick a new one each time you finish the favorite.

- **Appealing illustrations.** At this age, most "reading" happens by interpreting the pictures, so look for books with a clear narrative and fun illustrations.

See our booklists at www.scholastic.com/read for recommended titles that match your child's interest and skills.



Parent to Parent

We use alphabet cookie cutters to spell our names in clay -- or cookie dough!
-Amy A., Virginia

Ask an Expert

Are there benefits to pretend play?

Absolutely! By playing pretend with others, your child learns that words give her the means to reenact a story or organize play. This process helps her make the connection between spoken and written language - a skill that will later help her learn to read. She also builds vocabulary when she engages in pretend play. If she loves to play with her toy dinosaurs, she will quickly learn the very big words for their names if you point them out.

Meet Our Expert: Ellen Booth Church spent many years as a pre-k and kindergarten teacher. She is currently an educational consultant, speaker, curriculum developer, and writer.

Find more expert advice for your reader at www.scholastic.com/read.

5 Ways to Develop Early Phonics Skills

Try these fun ideas to help your child make that all-important letter-sound connection:

- 1. Sing the alphabet song.** Be creative - sing it as a rap, skip every other letter, start the song beginning with the letter of your child's name. Sing backwards, quietly, or loudly.
- 2. Play with letters.** Magnet letters are good for word play. To help him learn in a tactile way, let him trace his finger across sandpaper letters as you say the letter and its sound.
- 3. Make an alphabet caterpillar.** Write out the alphabet on colored construction paper circles and work with your child to put the letters in order.
- 4. Play "I Spy."** Select an object in the room and provide phonics clues to help her guess what it is. Say, "I spy something that begins with a 'T'" or "What sound does 'T' make?"
- 5. Share alphabet books.** Alphabet books provide perfect, at-home opportunities for working with letters and words. Try Dr. Seuss's *ABC* or *Chicka Chicka Boom Boom* by Bill Martin, Jr. and John Archambault.

Build a Poem

Read the following lines with your child. Have her fill in the words from the list to write a rhyming poem.

**I went to the farm and what did I see? A pink pig
sitting under a _____!**

**I jogged by a log and saw a green
_____.**

**When I went in the house, I was surprised by a
_____!**

**It climbed on a chair and down it sat, Then was
chased away by a big black
_____.**

**I left the farm and what did I see? Two pink
flowers and one yellow
_____.**

Tree	Cat	Mouse	Frog
Dog	Bee	Truck	Blouse
Giraffe	Cow	Rabbit	Hat

Bringing the Best Books to You

From the tons of titles published each year, Scholastic Book Club editors choose the best ones to fill your monthly flyer – a mix of award winners, bestsellers, new picks, and favorites you loved as a kid. Choose from fiction, nonfiction, humor, fantasy, and reference books to find the perfect fit for your reader.

Daily Wordplay

Make up clapping games using rhymes that repeat a specific word family, like this version of *Mary Mack*:

Mary Mack
All dressed in black
Had silver buttons
Straight down her back.
She took her lunch
From a paper sack
But saw a bug
And gave it a whack!

Family Fun

Team up to make a first-rate bookend for your child's bookshelf! Build a rock sculpture using souvenir stones and superglue, then add paint or glitter to glam it up.



ClassroomCare

ClassroomCare helps children learn the joys of giving...and reading!

Your child's class can help donate 1 million books to kids in need.

To learn more, visit scholastic.com/classroomscare

Did You Know?

When you order, your child's class gets FREE books and resources!

About Your Firefly Reader Now

Your Firefly Reader Now is produced by the editors of Scholastic.com to provide age-appropriate booklists and information that can help you foster reading at home. For more advice, visit *All About Reading* at www.scholastic.com/read.



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