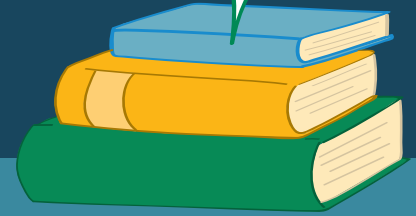


# BRIGHT HORIZONS Growing Readers Review

Vol 20  
ISSUE 1

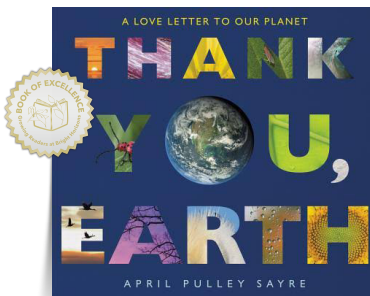


*Books of Excellence and Notable books are selected annually by a panel of Bright Horizons early childhood experts and represent some of the best new writing in children's literature.*

## BOOKS OF EXCELLENCE

### SCHOOL-AGE (K-2) | *BH Book of Excellence Award Winner*

#### Thank You, Earth



**Written by April Pulley Sayre**

"Thank you for beginnings, for endings, for lifetimes. Thank you for being our home." April Pulley Sayre's book moves from the seaside of California to the woodlands of New Hampshire, and many places in between, gently introducing varied and complex concepts including ecosystems, life cycles, weather, and patterns in nature. Glorious photos and pleasing lyrical verse inspire feelings of gratitude and awe for the planet we share. The last pages offer simple learning ideas, strategies, and resources to encourage readers of all ages to create their own expressions of gratitude for our earth.

**About the Author:** April Pulley Sayre, award-winning photographer and author of more than 65 books, lives in South Bend, Indiana.

“ Thank you Earth had the four seasons! – COOPER AGE 5

### INFANTS AND TODDLERS | *BH Book of Excellence Award Winner*

#### A Little Book About Spring

**Written by Leo Lionni's friends; Illustrated by Leo Lionni and Julie Hamilton**

*A Little Book About Spring* introduces a new generation to author-illustrator Leo Lionni, whose bright illustrations and gentle stories have enchanted readers for more than 60 years. Crisp, descriptive text builds language development while evoking sensory images of spring.



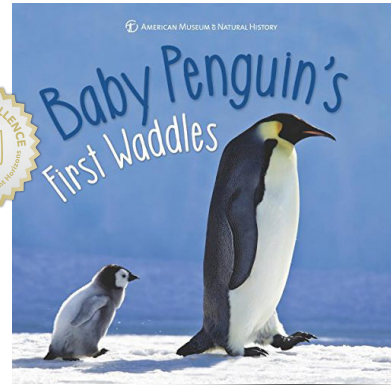
“ I liked the rainbows, the mice, and the lady bug. – TAYLOR AGE 2

**PRESCHOOL** | *BH Book of Excellence Award Winner*

## Baby Penguin's First Waddles

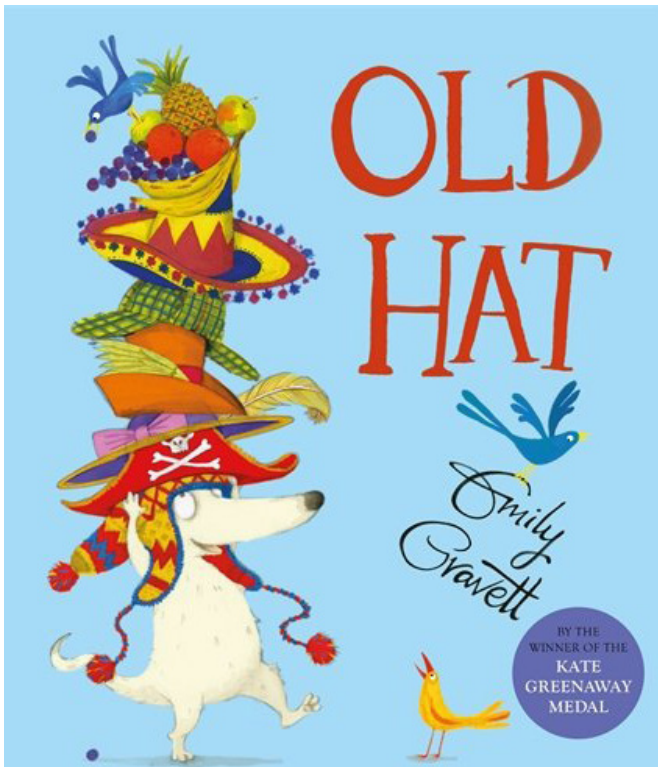
Written by Ben Richmond in partnership with the American Museum of Natural History

Simple text and full-page photos depict the lives of emperor penguins. Attentive parents feed and protect their young. As the baby penguins grow, they play, explore, and learn. Soon they're racing down snowy hills and diving deep in the ocean for food. The book's rich science vocabulary and focus on community make it stand out.



“The daddy penguins keep the eggs safe. – JACK AGE 3

**PRESCHOOL** | *Special Interest Book*



→ This issue's special interest book focuses on independence, creativity, and self-acceptance.

## Old Hat

Written and Illustrated by Emily Gravett

Harbet loves his old knitted hat, but he discards it to keep up with the latest trends. Poor Harbet! Every hat he tries is already out of fashion – OLD HAT! Finally, he discovers that being himself is a lot more fun. Children will giggle at Harbet's antics, and they'll appreciate the story's theme of independence and self-acceptance.

# Notable Books

*Other great books we recommend.*

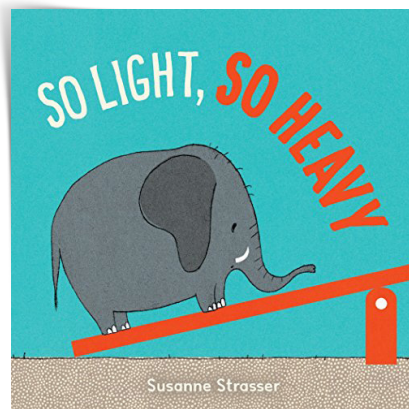


## *So Light, So Heavy*

Written and Illustrated by Susanne Strasser

### INFANTS & TODDLERS

Zoop! Zippity Zap! Whoop! Elephant wants to teeter-totter but he's too heavy. That is, until he gets some help from his friends—penguin, monkey, ostrich, giraffe, hippo, and dino! Bright illustrations, playful vocabulary, and a repetitive text will have little ones begging for more.

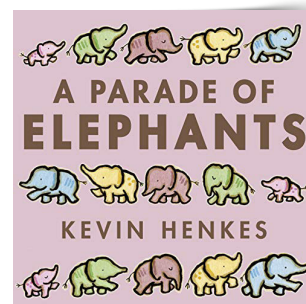


## *A Parade of Elephants*

Written and Illustrated by Kevin Henkes

### INFANTS AND TODDLERS

"Big and round and round they are. Big and round and round they go." This charming parade of elephants introduces numbers, prepositions, and size — and ends with a sweet surprise.

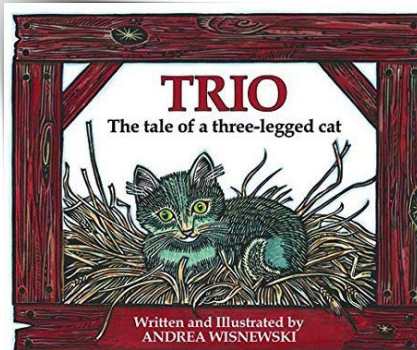


## *Trio: The Tale of a Three-Legged Cat*

Written and Illustrated by Andrea Wisniewski

### PRESCHOOL

Trio, the three-legged cat, doesn't know he's different. He pounces, sneaks, and jumps with the farm cats. He digs holes, takes dust baths, and eats bugs with the chickens. But when he climbs into a nest, he discovers a special surprise in this winning tale of finding strengths and celebrating differences. Vibrant linocut and watercolor illustrations add to the fun.





# Notable Books

CONTINUED...

Snap a photo to link to  
the *Growing Readers*  
website for more book  
recommendations.

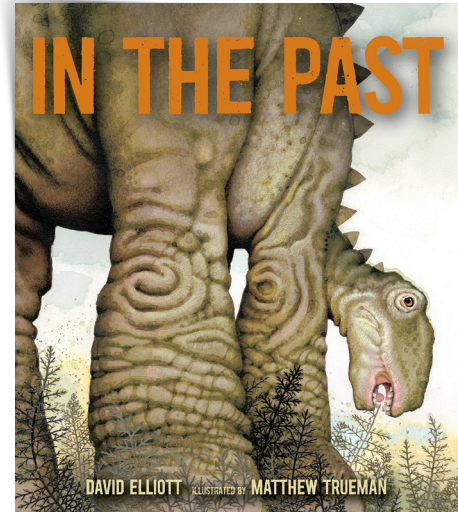


## *In the Past*

Written by David Elliott; Illustrated by Matthew Trueman

### **SCHOOL-AGE (K-2)**

Not your average “dinosaur book,” *In the Past* is a whimsical, eye-popping celebration of all things prehistoric. Every page features a short, often humorous poem, each exploring one prehistoric animal, all with vibrant, larger-than-life watercolor illustrations that captivate the reader. Check the back pages for interesting and unusual facts about each dinosaur.



## *The Yin-Yang Sisters and the Dragon Frightful*

Written by Nancy Tupper Ling  
Illustrated by Andrea Offermann

### **SCHOOL-AGE (K-2)**

Two sisters, one village, and a big problem: a dragon! But together, Mei and Wei use their individual strengths—courage, perseverance, curiosity, and intelligence—to transform the dragon from Frightful to Delightful.

