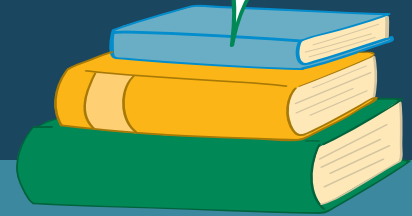


BRIGHT HORIZONS Growing Readers Review

JANUARY
2021



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.

Book of Excellence

PRESCHOOL

Saturday



Written and Illustrated by Oge Mora

For Ava and her mom, Saturdays are special. But what happens when their special day turns into a disaster? They take a deep breath, focus on the good, and find a solution, of course! Bright illustrations complement this story of family togetherness and resilience.

Storytelling Tips

- ▶ Read the entire story. Then spend a minute looking at it again. Point out the collage illustrations, made from cut paper.
- ▶ Examine the changes in font size and style. Point out how the word Saturday is emphasized. Notice the way the days of the week are formatted on the first page.

Extend the Learning

- ▶ Talk about the things your family does that make your life special. Write a simple story about those things. Offer construction paper, scissors, and glue. Demonstrate how to cut out shapes and glue them together to make collage.
- ▶ What do you do when things don't go right? What makes your family feel better during challenging situations?

We are proud to partner with The Book Vine for Children on our Growing Readers book selections. [Click here](#) to order these books and more.

Notable Books

Other great books we recommend.

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



INFANT & TODDLER

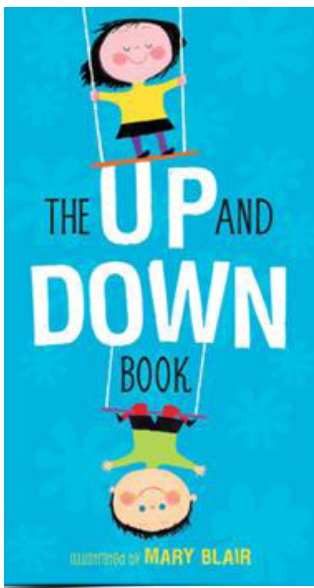
The Up and Down Book

Written and Illustrated by Mary Blair

The illustrations, childlike and exuberant, make this simple story about prepositions a pleasure to read. From elevators to flowers to people, the book explores the world of *up* and *down*.

Storytelling Tips

- ▶ Take time to look at each illustration. Point out the small details, such as a worm, raindrops, or moon.
- ▶ Describe real-life connections to the story, such as, “You like to swing in the swing too!” or “We went on an elevator at the store.”



Extend the Learning

- ▶ Use vocabulary describing prepositions with your child, e.g., “We’re going up the stairs,” or “We’re getting in the car.”
- ▶ Offer a cardboard box to your child to climb in, over, around, etc. Describe your child’s actions.
- ▶ Explore elements from the book in real life. Look at the clouds, go on an elevator, or touch the grass. Visit a pond or lake.

PRESCHOOL

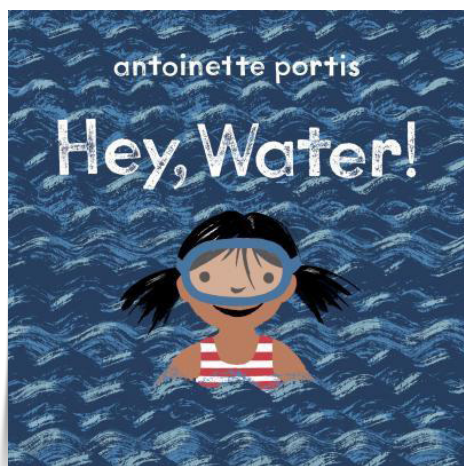
Hey, Water!

Written and Illustrated by Antoinette Portis

Hey, Water offers a playful introduction to all the roles water plays in life on our planet. From showers and sprinklers, to icebergs, steam, and clouds, this book offers just the right amount of information for the curious preschooler.

Storytelling Tips

- ▶ Read the story, pointing out the vocabulary words, such as sprinkler or shower that are stamped on the pages. Notice also the various techniques and media the artist uses to make the illustrations.
- ▶ Talk about your favorite experiences with water. Does your family like to swim or boat, play in snow, ice skate, or maybe all of the above?



Extend the Learning

- ▶ Explore the forms water can take. Make ice or go skating. Boil a kettle and watch steam form. Play in the snow or cut out snowflakes to hang in your windows.
- ▶ Try using some of the techniques Antoinette Portis uses to make art, such as stamps or splatter art. Use paintbrushes to make wavy lines, similar to the end papers of this book. Try combining techniques in one painting.
- ▶ Learn about your water. Where does it come from? How can you conserve it? In what ways is your family already conserving water? Are there areas you'd like to improve?
- ▶ Fill ice cube trays with tempera paint and insert a craft stick in the middle of each cube. Freeze overnight. Paint with these frozen cubes.
- ▶ Fill a tub with water and offer some materials, such as a cork, plastic toy, or stick that float. Also offer some things that sink, such as a metal bowl, stone, or paper clip. Experiment to learn which items sink and float. Do some items float initially (such as paper or a sponge), but sink when they become saturated?

SCHOOL-AGE (K-2)

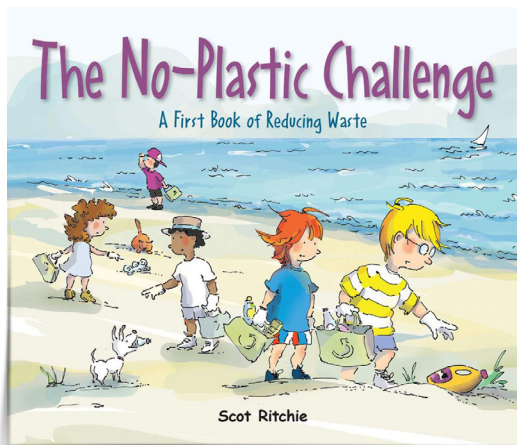
Join the No-Plastic Challenge!

Written and Illustrated by Scot Ritchie

Simply and expertly written, *Join the No-Plastic Challenge!* provides a positive message about the benefits and drawbacks of plastic and offers simple changes families can make to reduce their reliance on plastic.

Storytelling Tips

- ▶ As you read the story, stop to discuss the concepts you're learning. How many items in your house are made from plastic? Were you surprised?
- ▶ Discuss with your child the ideas that most resonate with you in the book. What are your takeaways?
- ▶ Celebrate your successes. What things are you already doing in your home?



Extend the Learning

- ▶ Discuss one thing you'd like to do differently as a family. Maybe you'll find alternatives to one-use water bottles or start a garden.
- ▶ Make a poster or write a story describing the strategy. Share it with extended family or friends. Encourage your child to speak up and use their voice to educate others and make positive change.