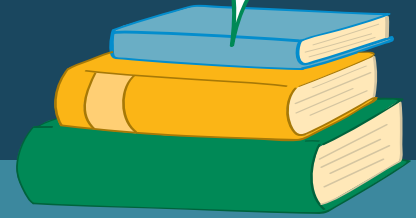


BRIGHT HORIZONS Growing Readers Review

Celebrating
20 Years

November
2021



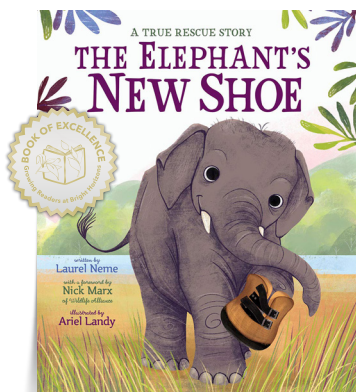
Books of Excellence and Notable books are selected annually by a panel of Bright Horizons early childhood experts and represent some of the best new writing in children's literature.

Book of Excellence

PRESCHOOL

NEW!
Growing Readers
Book Club videos!
See page 2
for further details.

The Elephant's New Shoe



Written by Laurel Neme; Illustrated by Ariel Landy

Nick Marx of Wildlife Alliance found Chhouk, a baby Asian elephant, in the Cambodian jungle. The little elephant was thin, hungry, and badly hurt. Nick was determined to save Chhouk. The Cambodian School of Prosthetics and Orthotics even made the elephant a prosthetic foot! Today Chhouk is thriving.

Storytelling Tips

- ▶ **Talk about helpers.** Mr. Rogers often said to, "Look for the helpers." Who were the helpers in this story? Who are the people that help your family?
- ▶ **Ask big questions.** This picture book brings up so many interesting topics. Do animals have feelings? Do they need love? How did Nick gain Chhouk's trust? How did Nick keep trying to help Chhouk?

Extend the Learning

- ▶ **Be a helper.** Talk as a family about what you can do to be helpers. Maybe you give loving care to animals in your own home. Maybe you can donate toys or food to an animal shelter.
- ▶ **Learn more.** Get books from the library or do an internet search to learn more about elephants.
- ▶ **Write your own story.** Both Nick and Chhouk were resilient. Encourage your child to think about a time when they accomplished something that was hard. Write and illustrate a short story about their experience with being resilient.

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

Mix It Up!

Written and Illustrated by Hervé Tullet

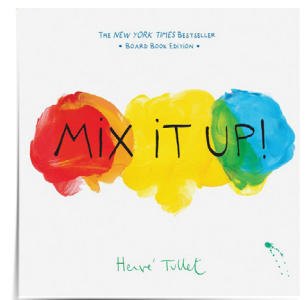
Playful, engaging, and irresistible, this book begs children to join in the painting fun. No paint smocks required!

Storytelling Tips

- ▶ **Read ahead.** This book requires audience participation. Read it alone the first time so you're ready to share it with your child.
- ▶ **Get your fingers ready.** Throughout the book, you'll be prompted to tap, squish, and smear the paint. Use your imagination and get in on the action. The more animated you are, the more engaged your child will be.

Extend the Learning

- ▶ **Try the real thing.** Offer your toddler fingerpaint and paper and experiment with making colorful marks on paper. For babies, try placing cardstock in a zip top bag. Add a few dollops of paint and seal the bag. Show your baby how to press on the bag to move the paint around. Voila! No mess painting.
- ▶ **Explore other sensory experiences.** Toddlers and babies learn about the world through their senses. Together, feel other materials such as velvet, corduroy, sandpaper, or natural objects.



NEW!

Don't miss this month's riveting video episode of the Growing Readers Book Club! Become Mr. Nate's co-researchers as you and your child are introduced to high-quality children's books along with ideas to explore, create, and investigate further!

Growing Readers
Book Club



[Watch the video here!](#)

This month's video features the book *The Elephant's New Shoe* by Laurel Neme. Join Mr. Nate as he crafts up a few simple ideas for children to show kindness to animals!

SCHOOL-AGE (K-2)

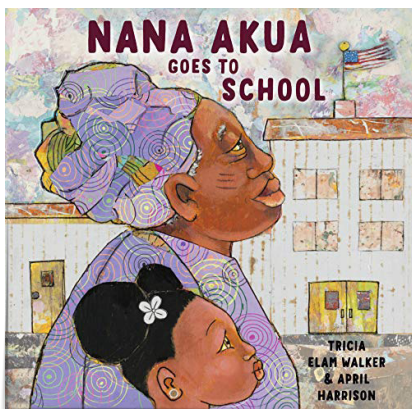
Nana Akua Goes to School

Written by **Tricia Elam Walker**; Illustrated by **April Harrison**

It's Grandparents Day at school and Zura is bringing her favorite person, Nana Akua. She worries though. Will the other children understand the marks on Nana's face? Will they make fun of her?

Storytelling Tips

- ▶ **Explore the end papers.** Briefly look at the Adinkra symbols and their meanings at the front of the book. After you've read the story, look at the symbols again. What symbol would your child choose? What would you choose?
- ▶ **Make a "text to self connection."** Young readers gain more from literature when they can make a connection from it to their own lives. Who would your child bring to school? What would that person share? Has your child ever worried about being misunderstood? How did that feel?



Extend the Learning

- ▶ **Examine the illustrations.** April Harrison's illustrations capture Zura's feelings so poignantly. Harrison often draws people with elongated features or closed eyes to increase the feeling of emotion in the painting. At the same time, the illustrator uses an interesting variety of materials including ink, acrylics, and collage. Gather some materials and try making a "mixed media" piece yourself.
- ▶ **Explore tradition.** Nana Akua's parents gave her the marks on her face when she was born. They were tribal marks that expressed both their love for her and their family's deeply held values. What traditions are meaningful to your family? What rituals pull your hearts close together?