

Growing Readers Review



Books of Excellence titles 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

Wishes of the World



**Preschool-
Young
School-Age**

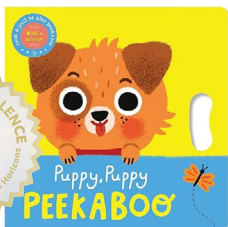
Written by Melissa Stiveson; Illustrated by Khoa Le

Explore the message of hope and joy in the diverse ways people make wishes. In this enchanting book, Melissa and Khoa bring to life the beautiful and diverse ways children around the world release their thoughts into a wish. Whimsical illustrations bring the reader on a journey around the world visiting many cultural places and artifacts.

Activities

- ▶ **What is a wish?** Talk about the meaning of a wish. Discuss ways your family makes wishes and ask your child what ways they would like to try making a wish.
- ▶ **Visit around the world.** Take time to visit the glossary at the back of the book to explore the countries mentioned in the book. What other cultural traditions do you know about these countries or others?
- ▶ **Make a list of wishes.** After reading the book, ask your child about their wishes and share a few of your own. What would they hope for or deeply desire for themselves, a loved one, or for children around the world?

Puppy, Puppy Peekaboo



**Infants &
Toddlers**

Written by Boxer Books; Illustrated by Grace Habib

Grace Habib captures the reader with delightful colors and playful illustrations in this charmingly interactive book. The grab-and-pull tabs will have your little one engaged in multiple reads!

Activities

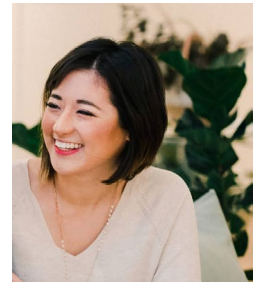
- ▶ **Play peekaboo.** Play a game of peekaboo using your hands, a blanket, or another prop. Extend the activity by trying different expressions with each peekaboo. Label each emotion as you go to build your child's feelings vocabulary.
- ▶ **Sing songs.** Fingerplays and songs like, "Family Finger" are a great way to strengthen your child's small hand muscles and explore concepts like object permanence, the understanding that objects continue to exist when hidden or out of sight. Change the song to adapt to your family or community.
- ▶ **Look and find.** Ask your child to search for and find something small on each page, e.g., a butterfly, ball, or tomato, to build focus and language, and make reading together an interactive experience.

We believe that books have the power to build empathy in children, introducing them to new perspectives and ideas. Through stories, children come to understand others' hopes, dreams, joys, and sorrows. We're committed to offering diverse stories and voices to our readers.

Reading News

Get to Know Grace Habib

Grace Habib, illustrator of several young children's books including our featured book of excellence, "Puppy, Puppy Peekaboo", was born in Chicago to immigrant parents from Seoul and Beirut. Her childhood was a vibrant mix of art, diverse cuisines, and the cultural heritages of her parents' backgrounds. Following this passion for art, she attended Columbus College of Art and Design in Ohio where she graduated with a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Illustration.



She began her career designing children's greeting cards at American Greetings until she pursued a full-time career illustrating for children's books. Her notable peekaboo series features charming animals and playful depictions of nature. Along with illustrating for books, she continues designing children's greeting cards and freelance illustrations for other publishing such as Scholastic magazine. Habib currently lives in Washington with her husband, three-year-old daughter, and two dachshunds. She and her family enjoy the outdoors, parks, and local bakeries and coffee shops.



Growing Readers Book Club

Become Teacher 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!

If your baby or toddler enjoyed the push/pull features of "Puppy, Puppy, Peekaboo," be sure to check out "Peekaboo Farm" by Camilla Reid. Watch Teacher Nate as he explores creative ways to engage babies and toddlers in playful learning.

[Watch the video here!](#)

Storytelling/Reading Tips

Create a Routine

Try to make it a habit to read at least one book a day. Whether you enjoy story time at breakfast or during bedtime, create a predictable routine so your child begins to anticipate storytime.

Have books available everywhere around your home, making reading time accessible. You may want to keep a book handy for doctor visits, commutes in the car, or over dinner.

Early literacy starts with the joy of reading, so incorporate books into your daily routine and make reading time an exciting hobby.

Visit the Growing Readers website to see a list of other great books we recommend checking out!

