

Growing



Readers Review

Book recommendations to help your child spark a lifelong love of reading

Celebrating

25 years

Infant and Toddler

My Hands Can

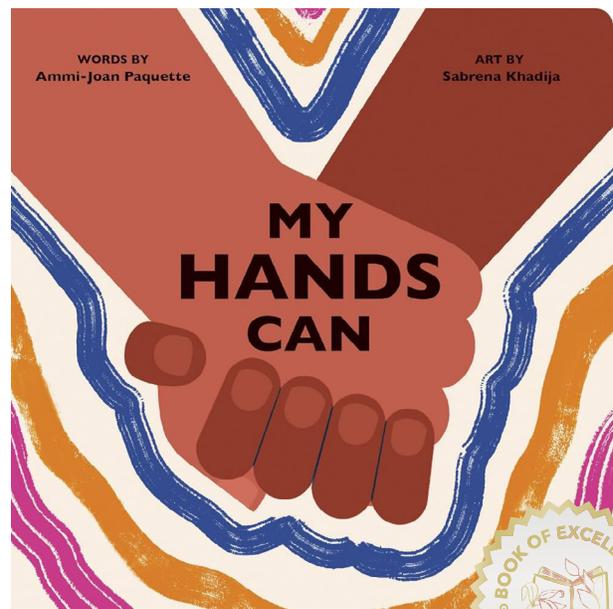
Written by Ammi-Joan Paquette
Illustrated by Sabrena Khadija

Clap, create, cook, connect!
My Hands Can is a joyful celebration of all the amazing things little hands can do – from play and communication to making special meals. This vibrant story invites young readers to discover how their bodies help them interact with others and the world around them in a meaningful way. This book serves as a gentle, encouraging primer for young children as they begin to gain control and awareness of their bodies.

Engaging activities

Make self-connections.

What are some family experiences that you enjoy sharing together? The characters in the story use their hands to create and experience their environment, whether it's making kimbap rolls together or scooping sand into buckets at the beach. What are some shared activities you enjoy together?



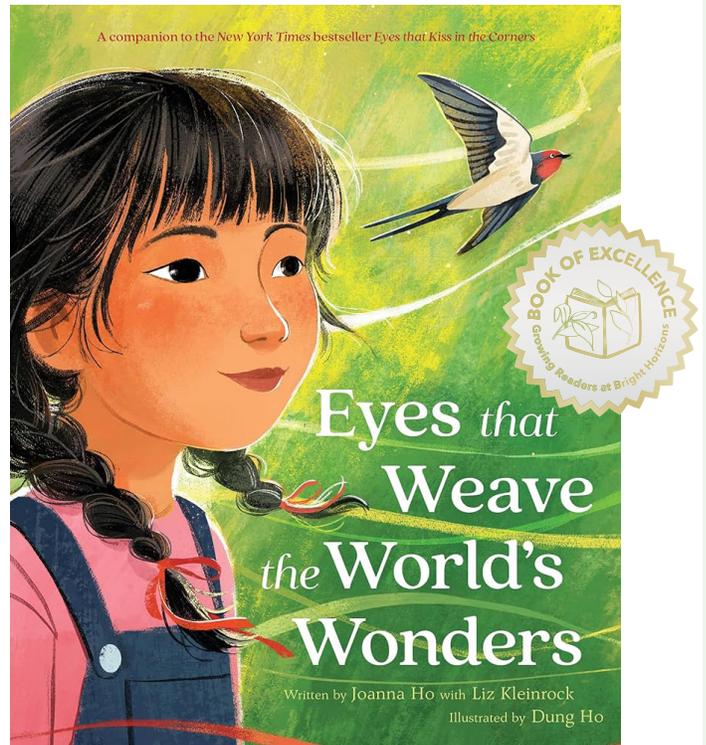
Learn about different body parts.

While this book focuses on hands, you can extend the learning by picking another body part to tell a story about. How do we use our nose or feet? How do we use our mouths? This could be a gentle lesson about positive ways to use our bodies.

Eyes That Weave the World's Wonders

Written by Joanna Ho with Liz Kleinrock
Illustrated by Dung Ho

Eyes that Weave the World's Wonders follows a young girl as she weaves pieces of her past and her present into the fabric of her identity. Inspired by Liz Kleinrock's own adoption, this touching story follows a young girl's curiosity about where she comes from and the deep connections she has to her adoptive family. With lyrical, expressive illustrations, this book celebrates the true meaning of family, love, and self-acceptance.



Engaging activities

Take in the illustrations.

Each page is full of rich color and detail. Point out the plants, brightly colored waves, and sweet Korean treats. On each spread, the girl enters different scenery, whether it's a ceramic studio, art gallery, or outdoors near the lake. Discuss the different places and notice the emotions conveyed in the illustrations.

Introduce similes.

The story is full of similes – “eyes like ocean waves” or “glow like warm tea.” Explain that writers sometimes use similes to make their narrative descriptions more vivid. Try to think of some similes to describe your family, feelings, and other aspects of life.

Share your family story.

Tell your child about their first year of life. Do you have a special item from when you first brought them home? Explore photographs or artifacts that are unique to who they are and their first days as part of your family.



25 Years of Growing Readers

This year marks a special milestone: 25 years of the Growing Readers program, Bright Horizons commitment to nurturing lifelong love of books and reading in children. To celebrate, we have partnered with the Bright Horizons Foundation for Children this year to bring more books into the hands of children.

As part of the celebration, we have launched a nationwide book drive to collect and donate books to the communities in which we live and work. Every book collected will be donated to nonprofit organizations that serve children and families. Our goal, with everyone's help, is to distribute a total of 25,000 children's books to children in need by the end of 2025.

Access to books is more than just a gateway to stories – it's a foundation for learning, creativity, growth, and opportunity. Children who grow up surrounded by books are more likely to develop strong literacy skills, excel academically, and build the confidence to explore the world around them.

Join us in giving back and spreading the love of reading. Together, we can inspire the next generation of readers together.



Reading
news

Find your local Bright Horizons to participate in this book drive or [donate online!](#)

Storytelling tips

Act it out.

Young children are active, hands-on learners, often moving and jumping from one activity to another. Bring that energy and movement to your next story time. Books are a great way to explore movements and new activities – such as cooking, dancing, or fishing.

In *Eyes that Weave the World's Wonders*, notice all the ways action and movement are depicted in the illustrations. Invite your child to find actions to imitate. Perhaps your child may stretch out their arms and glide across the room like an airplane, or dance to music of a different language.

Younger children and babies learn best from hands-on, sensory experiences. Abstract ideas can be difficult for children to grasp. Next time you read the book, *My Hands Can* imitate the actions in the story, be playful and funny, or use props to help children better understand the story. Encourage your child to think about many ways they can use their hands to discover and play.

Acting out stories can be as easy or as elaborate as you like. Be sure to follow your child's cues on this. For example, expect babies and toddlers to stay focused for only a few minutes, reaching for a prop or watching you reenact a scene with movement. Children who are ready for a challenge can be assigned roles to help reenact parts or a whole story.

This type of active participation enhances comprehension, memory, and vocabulary development. It also helps children connect language to physical actions and understand character perspectives.



Make reading a joyful part of your child's daily routine.

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