

Growing Readers Review

Volume 13, Issue 3

When in the World Do We Learn?

According to *The Merriam-Webster Dictionary*, curriculum is defined as the courses offered by an educational institution. Most people don't associate the word curriculum with very young children or child care, but with children learning at their most rapid rate in the early years, a major opportunity lies in a well thought out early childhood curriculum. At **Bright Horizons**[®], our curriculum, *The World at Their Fingertips*[®], provides intentional teaching and rich experiences that build upon children's individual strengths and talents to help them achieve success in school and in life.

Science for infants? Absolutely, and we call it *Science Rocks*. Even the youngest children are natural explorers, discovering the world that is separate from themselves and how it works. Before they have the words to describe their experience, they can sort shapes, feel the difference between hot and cold, and understand the concept of object permanence through a game of peek-a-boo. Independence is the keystone of growth as toddlers develop a sense of self. With the curriculum component *Our World*, these youngsters begin to understand emotions and behaviors as they play together, share, and learn about empathy for their little friends.

With *Math Counts*, preschoolers discover sorting, time, measurement and something deeper than rote numbers. While toddlers can often count from one to a high number, preschoolers know the meaning of those numbers and can give you three balls or nine napkins.

Through these curriculum elements, plus *ArtSmart*, *Language Works*, and *Well Aware*, *The World at Their Fingertips*[®] curriculum acknowledges the developmental readiness and interests of each child. Children's literature plays a big role in conveying knowledge and setting up youngsters to be life-long readers. All the books in this issue of Growing Readers Review relate to areas of the *World* curriculum. In addition, they are books that children, families, and teachers can learn, grow, and enjoy together.

By Susan C. Brenner, EdD



www.brighthorizons.com

BOOKS OF EXCELLENCE

PRESCHOOL

Sky Color

Written and Illustrated by Peter H. Reynolds

What color is the sky? What may seem like a simple question sets the basis for this beautiful story about finding the inner artist in all of us.

Marisol loves to paint and considers herself an artist. So when her teacher asks her and her classmates to help make a mural for the school library, she can't wait to begin! Marisol is perplexed when she tries to paint the blue sky but doesn't have any blue paint. After daydreaming on the bus ride home and watching the day turn into night, she closes her eyes and dreams of a different sky. In her dreams and in her reality, she discovers the sky is not always blue. This unlocks the creativity inside her and leads her to create a beautiful masterpiece.

One of the main goals of the Bright Horizons *Art Smart* curriculum is for children to feel comfortable being creative, and to develop an excited, open-minded attitude about the process of creativity. We believe that children develop many skills and abilities when engaged in the process of exploring materials. Among other things, they learn to take initiative, develop cognitive and physical skills while increasing confidence, competence, independence, and a personal sense of aesthetics. *Sky Color* celebrates this belief through its message and whimsical pictures, encouraging the artist and creative thinker in all of us.

About the Author/Illustrator

Peter H. Reynolds is a children's book author, illustrator, bookshop owner, founder of *FableVision*, and an advocate for creativity with children of all ages. Some of his books include *The Dot*, *Ish*, and *The North Star*. Mr. Reynolds' journey has been dedicated to helping kids, especially the "off the path" kids. He says that he was one of them and not every student is lucky enough to have a teacher, or another adult, see his or her potential like he had. His hobbies include thinking and dreaming and he hopes that his art and stories can help inspire others to do the same.

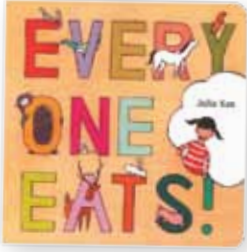


Join Jumpstart's Read for the Record[®]!

Bright Horizons is proud to join Jumpstart's *Read for the Record*—a national campaign that encourages millions of adults and children from all over the country to read the same book on the same day. This year's book is *Otis* by Loren Long, the beautifully illustrated story of a little tractor who turns out to be a hero and good friend. On October 3, 2013, help break the record of the largest shared reading experience ever!

To learn more about Jumpstart's *Read for the Record*, visit www.jstart.org/campaigns/read-record.

INFANT AND TODDLER



Everyone Eats

Written and illustrated by Julia Kuo

This simple but beautifully illustrated board book is a straightforward guide to healthy eating cleverly disguised as an easy-to-read-and-repeat book. As parents and educators alike focus on the benefits of our *Well Aware* curriculum and healthy eating with our children, this book

demonstrates to the young reader that just like rabbits enjoy a crunchy carrot, so should we. The deer on one page forage around for crisp, green lettuce and the opposite page shows the reader a bowl of crunchy lettuce in a salad that we can eat. Can you guess which animal might like the corn on the cob we enjoy in the summer or the berries we put in our muffins? What animal shares our interest in apple juice boxes? Toddlers will giggle when they find the answers!

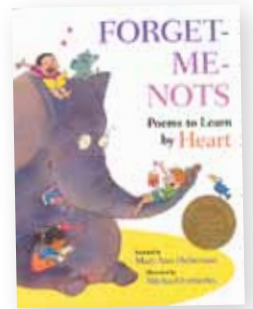
SCHOOL AGE

Forget-Me-Nots: Poems to Learn by Heart

Selected by Mary Ann Hoberman; illustrated by Michael Emberley

What better way to excite children about the wonders of *Language Works* than with a collection of poems compiled by a former Children's Poet Laureate? Hoberman sums it up by writing, "When you learn a poem by heart, it becomes a part of you. You know it in your mind, in your mouth, in your ears, in your whole body. And best of all, you know it forever."

Hoberman's collection of poems includes works by Langston Hughes, Lewis Carroll, Roald Dahl, William Shakespeare, J. R. R. Tolkien, and many others. This collection reinvigorates the practice of memorizing poetry. The poems themselves are so engaging, children will be motivated to learn them by heart and make them a permanent part of their ongoing experience with language.



NOTABLE BOOKS

Do You Have a Tail?

Written and illustrated by Simms Taback • Infant and Toddler

SCIENCE ROCKS

Simple questions and bright illustrations are an invitation to a conversation with a toddler.

Moomin's Little Book of Words

Written and illustrated by Tove Jansson • Infant and Toddler

LANGUAGE WORKS

The whimsical Moomins introduce vocabulary, color, and action.

Montessori: Number Work

Written and illustrated by Bobby and June George

MATH COUNTS

Young readers can trace each number and match it with the quantity it represents.

Animal 123

Written and illustrated by Britta Teckentrup

MATH COUNTS

Lift the flap and learn the next number in this interactive parade of animals.

Green

Written and illustrated by Laura Vaccaro Seeger
Preschool

OUR WORLD

How many kinds of green are there? There's the lush green of a forest, the juicy green of a fresh-cut lime, and the vivid aquamarine of a tropical sea. Readers will delight in this homage to a single color.

Just Ducks

Written by Nicola Davies; illustrated by Salvatore Rubbino • Preschool

SCIENCE ROCKS

Written by a zoologist, this book intersperses interesting facts about ducks into a lovely story about a little girl and her affection for the ducks who live on the river in her town. The illustrator paints the story and brings the quacking ducks to life.

The Beetle Book

Written and illustrated by Steve Jenkins • School Age

SCIENCE ROCKS

The beetle world is vast: one out of every four living things on earth is a beetle. Readers will be fascinated with the facts about these intriguing insects and the many adaptations they have made to survive.

