

Recommended Reading List

Thanks for joining Bright Horizons and Barefoot Books for our parent webinar: Reading Aloud with Children. The reading list below represents some of our favorite titles from the Barefoot Books collection that can be used to help you take reading aloud to the next level!

As a special thank you for attending our webinar, Barefoot Books is offering **25% off discount** when you shop at the following link by midnight on 11/19/13. [CLICK HERE](#) to shop now and enter '**BRIGHTHORIZONS**' upon checkout to take advantage of this limited time offer.

Books for Infants:

[Bear on a Bike](#) (Ages Infants – 6)

Written by Stella Blackstone, illustrated by Debbie Harter

Join Bear as she tries out different forms of transport. Rhyme and repetition support the learning layers of travel and transportation as Bear travels in a raft, a rocket ship, a boat, a bike, a steam train and a carriage.

[I Took the Moon for a Walk](#) (Ages Infants – 7)

Written by Carolyn Curtis, illustrated by Alison Jay

Embark on a dreamy, night-time jaunt with a young boy and the moon.

[Alligator Alphabet](#) (Ages Infants – 4)

Written by Stella Blackstone and illustrated by Stephanie Bauer

This cheery board book makes for a colorful introduction to first letters.

[Secret Seahorse](#) (Ages Infants – 7)

Written by Stella Blackstone, illustrated by Clare Beaton

Meet all kinds of aquatic creatures as you descend into the deep – and see if you can spot the seahorse as he swims through the coral reef!

[How Big Is a Pig?](#) (Ages Infants – 4)

Written by Stella Blackstone, illustrated by Clare Beaton

Learn about opposites and contrasts as you follow an inquisitive pig who has a seemingly simple question.

[There's a Cow in the Cabbage Patch](#) (Ages Infants – 4)

Written by Stella Blackstone, illustrated by Clare Beaton

Take a tour around the farmyard and help all of the animals find their way to their rightful spots in this topsy-turvy jaunt.

[Come Here, Cleo!](#) (Ages Infants – 4)

Written by Stella Blackstone, illustrated by Caroline Mockford

Follow Cleo as she investigates the world around her.

Teachable Moments Books:

[Girl With a Brave Heart](#) (Ages 4 – 10)

Written by Rita Jahanforuz, illustrated by Vali Mintzi

Shiraz, a kindhearted young girl growing up in Tehran, has a miserable life at home with her stepmother and stepsister, who treat her like a servant. When the wind blows Shiraz's ball of wool into the garden next door, she spends the day helping and caring for the old lady who lives there, with miraculous results. Then her stepmother sends her own daughter off on the same mission . . . but will the results be the same?

[Lola's Fandango](#) (Ages 4 – 10)

Written by Anna Witte, illustrated by Micha Archer

Narrated By: The Amador Family

Lola is a young Spanish girl in awe of her glamorous older sister. However, she discovers her own talent and duende, or spirit, through secret fandango lessons from her father. The text is infused with the rhythms, movements and sounds of the dance and the humanity of Lola's family is beautifully portrayed by Micha Archer's collage-paintings.

[The Little Red Hen](#) (Ages 3 – 7)

Retold by Mary Finch, illustrated by Kate Slater

Narrated by Emmy-award-winning actress Debra Messing

The lazy rooster and the mischievous mouse can't be bothered to help the little red hen tend her ear of wheat. But when her loaf of bread is ready, the little red hen is not at all inclined to share. The rooster and the mouse soon mend their ways! This lively version of the classic tale is given contemporary treatment with dynamic, textured illustrations. Includes recipe to bake your very own loaf of bread.

[The Gigantic Turnip](#) (Ages 3 – 7)

Written by Aleksei Tolstoy, illustrated by Niamh Sharkey

Narrated by Ellen Vereniaks

Find out what happens when the old woman, the old man, and all twenty-one animals on the farm try to harvest a rather large root vegetable. This well-loved Russian tale uses humor, counting and repetition to appeal to beginner readers.

[The Kite Princess](#) (Ages 3 – 8)

Written by Juliet Clare Bell, Illustrated by Laura-Kate Chapman

Narrated by Imelda Staunton

Princess Cinnamon Stitch is a tomboy who has no interest in courtly life. She'd rather cartwheel through puddles and dance with alley cats. Can she show the king and queen that there's more to life than being pretty and good? Includes instructions for making your own kite.

[Ruby's Baby Brother](#) (Ages 3 – 7)

Written by Kathryn White, Illustrated by Miriam Latimer

Ruby's mom is having a baby, but Ruby is not very happy about it. She knows that babies are smelly and noisy, and she is sure that he will steal all her toys! When baby Leon comes along, will she change her mind about having a baby brother?

[Shrinking Sam](#) (Ages 3 – 7)

Written and illustrated by by Miriam Latimer

Find out what happens when Sam wakes up and finds that he's shrinking! No one will listen to him but his pencil is the size of a crocodile and one pea fills his whole tummy at dinner. This quirky story addresses the woes of a middle child, who is in need of a little attention.

[The Boy Who Grew Flowers](#) (Ages 4 – 10)

Written by Jen Wojtowicz, illustrated by Steve Adams

Rink is a very unusual boy who grows beautiful flowers all over his body whenever the moon is full. Rink and his family are treated as outcasts even though no one knows his strange botanical secret. But one day a new girl arrives at school, and Rink discovers she has some unique qualities of her own.

[Mama Panya's Pancakes](#) (Ages 4 – 10)

Written by Mary Chamberlin, Rich Chamberlin, Illustrated by Julia Cairns

Glimpse into a Kenyan village with the story of Mama Panya and Adika's market day, and learn an important lesson about community and the rewards of sharing. Includes a helpful map, facts about Kenya, Kiswahili greetings, and even an easy-to-make pancake recipe.

Stories that represent other countries & cultures:

[Girl With a Brave Heart](#) (Ages 4 – 10)

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[Off We Go to Mexico](#) (Ages 4 – 10)

Written by Laurie Krebs, illustrated by Christopher Corr

Swim in turquoise seas, admire grey whales and monarch butterflies, trek to native villages and sing and dance to the music of Mariachi bands. Along the way, you can learn Spanish words and phrases and discover Mexican culture. Enjoy your journey!

[We All Went on Safari \(Ages 4 – 10\)](#)

Written by Laurie Krebs, illustrated by Julia Cairns

Learn to count in Swahili while discovering African animals on an exciting safari through the grasslands of Tanzania. Facts about Tanzania, Swahili counting, the Maasai people and a map are included at the end. A portion of the proceeds from the sale of each book will be donated to the African Wildlife Foundation, to aid in their wildlife conservation and community building efforts in Tanzania.

[The Barefoot World Atlas \(All Ages\)](#)

Written by Nick Crane, illustrated by David Dean

This is the atlas for twenty-first-century readers. It's packed with information about the way in which communities and cultures around the world have been shaped by their local environments, and it looks at the ideas and initiatives that are shaping the future.

[If You're Happy and You Know It \(Ages 3 – 7\)](#)

Written by Anna McQuinn, illustrated by Sophie Fatus

Sung by Susan Reed

In this multicultural version of the traditional song, children from cultures all over the world clap their hands, stomp their feet, pat their heads, and much more.

[Here We Go Round the Mulberry Bush \(Ages 3 – 7\)](#)

Illustrated by Sophie Fatus

Narrated by Fred Penner

Find out how four children from Mali, Europe, India and China go through their morning routines. The catchy text encourages creative movement and imagination, while teaching about different ways of life.

[The Story Tree \(Ages 3 – 7\)](#)

Retold by Hugh Lupton, illustrated by Sophie Fatus

Delight in reading these quirky tales aloud to the under-five crowd. Each of the seven stories imparts an important lesson while using humor and lovable characters to keep listeners engaged.

[My Granny Went to the Market \(Ages 3 – 7\)](#)

Written by Stella Blackstone, illustrated by Christopher Corr

Fly away with Granny and count with her from one to ten as she spins around the world on an unforgettable shopping trip. This colorful, rhyming story is followed by a counting page for reinforced learning.

[We're Riding on a Caravan \(Ages 4 – 10\)](#)

Written by Laurie Krebs, illustrated by Helen Cann

Join the caravan for an exciting yearlong trek along China's ancient Silk Road. Following the rhyming, treasure-filled story are informational endnotes about the history of the Silk Road, the story of silk, important cities of China, and a full-spread map.

[Catch that Goat! \(Ages 3 – 8\)](#)

Chase after a mischievous goat! Ayoka has been left in charge of the family goat – but within minutes the goat has vanished. This Nigerian market tale uses humour to impart a message about responsibility, and includes endnotes about Yoruba costume and language, Nigeria facts, and market life.

[Elephant Dance A Journey to India](#) (Ages 4 – 10)

Written by Theresa Heine, illustrated by Sheila Moxley

Listen along with Ravi to Grandfather's captivating stories about India, where the sun is like a ferocious tiger and monsoon rains cascade like waterfalls. Notes after the story include facts about India's animals, food, culture and religion, and a simple elephant dance music score.

Books that emphasize taking care of ourselves and our planet:

[I Took the Moon for a Walk](#) (Ages 1 – 7)

Written by Carolyn Curtis, illustrated by Alison Jay

Embark on a dreamy, nighttime jaunt with a young boy and the moon. Overcoming a fear of the dark and discovering the world at night lives at the heart of this poetic tale. Includes notes about the moon and plants and animals that thrive in the wee hours.

[The Barefoot Book of Earth Tales](#) (Ages 5 – 10)

Written by Dawn Casey, illustrated by Anne Wilson

Learn how different cultures around the world set out to live in harmony with the natural world in this popular anthology, now in paperback. The seven folk tales are each followed by a hands-on activity that promotes green living and reinforces the eco-messages of the stories.

[Whole World](#) (All Ages)

Illustrated by Christopher Corr

Sung by Fred Penner

Connect with the whole wide, wonderful world with this green book that rejoices in the marvels of our environment. The catchy rhyme in this new take on a traditional spiritual begs to be sung aloud. Includes lots of facts about the Earth's eco systems and tips on how to be eco-conscious.

[We're Roaming in the Rainforest](#) (Ages 4 – 10)

Written by Laurie Krebs, illustrated by Anne Wilson

Three children embark on a day-long trek through the rainforest, discovering all sorts of exotic creatures in their natural habitats. The charming, rhyming text highlights an adjective for each creature. The story is complemented by educational endnotes about the creatures in the story, and the peoples of the rainforest.

[Herb, The Vegetarian Dragon](#) (Ages 4 – 10)

Written by Jules Bass, illustrated by Debbie Harter

Meet Herb, a dragon who knows how to stay true to his values even in the stickiest of situations. When he is captured by the castle's knights in armor, vegetarian Herb is faced with a difficult decision: will he eat meat in order to save his own life?

[Who's in the Garden?](#) (Ages 1 – 4)

Written by Phillis Gershator, illustrated by Jill McDonald

In this delightful peek-a-boo book, children are invited to look through the holes on every other page to answer the repeating refrain, "Who's coming to see how my garden grows?" The energetic, rhyming text introduces all sorts of creatures that are busy in the garden.

[Grandpa's Garden](#) (Ages 3 – 7)

This beautifully told story follows Billy from early spring to late summer as he helps his grandpa on his vegetable patch. They dig the hard ground, sow rows of seeds, and keep them watered and safe from slugs. When harvest time arrives they can pick all the vegetables and fruit they have grown. Children will be drawn in by the poetry of the language and the warm illustrations, while also catching the excitement of watching things grow!

[The Beeman](#) (Ages 5 – 9)

Written by Laurie Krebs, illustrated by Valeria Cis

Told from the viewpoint of a child whose Grandpa is a beekeeper, this rhyming text offers an accessible and engaging introduction to the behavior of bees, including: where they live, how honey is made, and what a beekeeper does. Children will love learning about the vital role of bees in the ecosystem, and will be delighted to find a delicious muffin recipe on the final page!

[We All Went on Safari](#) (Ages 4 – 10)

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Learn to count in Swahili while discovering African animals on an exciting safari through the grasslands of Tanzania. Facts about Tanzania, Swahili counting, the Maasai people and a map are included at the end. A portion of the proceeds from the sale of each book will be donated to the African Wildlife Foundation, to aid in their wildlife conservation and community building efforts in Tanzania.

Books with songs & storytelling CD's:

[Animal Boogie](#) (Ages 3 – 7)

Illustrated by Debbie Harter

Sung by Fred Penner

Can you boogie? Down in the Indian jungle, the children and animals are learning about actions like leaping, stomping, shaking and flapping while meeting different jungle creatures.

[Portside Pirates](#) (Ages 3 – 7)

Written by Oscar Seaworthy, Illustrated by Debbie Harter

Sung by Mark Collins

Travel the high seas with a lively band of buccaneers as they enjoy a melodic adventure aboard their galleon. Includes fun information about historical pirates, pirates around the world, and even a helpful chart naming the parts of a ship.

[Driving my Tractor](#) (Ages 3 – 7)

Written by Jan Dobbins, Illustrated by David Sim

Sung by SteveSongs

Chug along with a farmer and his tractor on this multi-season animal adventure! A busy farmer picks up fifteen animals along his route, but when his trailer hits a stone, chaos ensues. This colorful book combines simple counting instruction with humor, repetition and rhythm to encourage learning fun.

[The Shape Song Swingalong](#) (Ages 4 – 7)

Written by SteveSongs, illustrated by David Sim

What can you make with a line, a circle or square? This inspiring book, based on an original song by children's singer SteveSongs, shows how simple shapes can be transformed into anything you can imagine from boats to skyscrapers to a circus. The catchy song and animation will soon have you dancing along, making shapes!

[Knick Knack Paddy Whack](#) (Ages 3 – 7)

Illustrated by Christiane Engel

Sung by SteveSongs

Sing along with this rollicking take on a traditional tune that introduces instruments and counts from one to ten. There are educational notes about instrument families as well as a simple music score at the end.

[Up, Up, Up](#) (Ages 3 – 7)

Written By: Susan Reed

Illustrated By: Rachel Oldfield

This airborne adventure takes readers ballooning over lands near and far, all the way to the stars. The charming singalong song on the accompanying CD keeps spirits high, while the rhyming and playful text introduces all sorts of settings and vocabulary-building words.

[The Farmyard Jamboree](#) (Ages 3 – 7)

Written by Margaret Read MacDonald, illustrated by Sophie Fatus

Sung by Bob King

Sing and dance along with a young boy who introduces different members of his family along with a new farmyard animal and animal baby on every page of this rollicking early learner, inspired by a Chilean folk tale. The toe-tapping story offers a playful way to practice counting skills.

[Playtime Rhymes for Little People](#) (Ages 0 – 5)

Illustrated by Clare Beaton

Sung by Susan Reed

Act out each of the imaginative selections in this hand-sewn anthology. The forty rhymes and games encourage active play and participation with step-by-step instructions to follow.

[If You're Happy and You Know It](#) (Ages 3 – 7)

Written by Anna McQuinn, illustrated by Sophie Fatus

Sung by Susan Reed

In this multicultural version of the traditional song, children from cultures all over the world clap their hands, stomp their feet, pat their heads, and much more.

[A Farmer's Life for Me](#) (Ages 3 – 7)

Written by Jan Dobbins, illustrated by Laura Huliska-Beith

Sung by The Flannery Brothers

A busy family and their friends spend a day working and playing on the farm. From milking the cows in the morning to closing the gate at night, learn about a day in the life of a farming family.