## Best Children’s Books of the Year
### Under Five

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Author</th>
<th>Illustrator</th>
<th>Publisher</th>
<th>ISBN</th>
<th>Age Range</th>
<th>Format</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Alfie Is Not Afraid</td>
<td>written and illustrated by Patricia Carlin</td>
<td>(Disney/Hyperion Books For Children, $16.99)</td>
<td>978-142314537-0</td>
<td>(2-4)</td>
<td></td>
<td>Graphic Format</td>
<td>A little boy feels lucky that his dog will protect him when they camp out at night, but Alfie has other ideas. Clever ink and digital illustrations. (3-5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Ant and the Grasshopper</td>
<td>by Rebecca Emberley, illustrated by Ed Emberley</td>
<td>(Neal Porter/Roaring Brook/Macmillan, $16.99)</td>
<td>978-1-59643-493-6</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Graphic Format</td>
<td>Grasshopper and his bug band provide what ant needs to bring her “sticky burden” back to her colony. Bold, colorful illustrations. (3-5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All about Grandmas</td>
<td>by Roni Schotter, illustrated by Janice Nadeau</td>
<td>(Dial/Penguin, $16.99)</td>
<td>978-0-8037-3714-3</td>
<td>(2-6)</td>
<td></td>
<td>Board Book</td>
<td>An endearing, rhyming look at the reciprocal love between grandmas and their grandchildren is accompanied by soft, inviting watercolors.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>And Then It’s Spring</td>
<td>by Julie Fogliano, illustrated by Erin E. Stead</td>
<td>(Neal Porter/Roaring Brook/Macmillan, $16.99)</td>
<td>978-1-59643-624-4</td>
<td>(4-6)</td>
<td></td>
<td>Graphic Format</td>
<td>Accompanied by his dog, a rabbit, and a turtle, a boy patiently awaits Spring as he guards his planted seeds. Spare text and graceful, muted illustrations.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baby Be Kind</td>
<td>written and illustrated by Jane Cowen-Fletcher</td>
<td>(Candlewick, $5.99)</td>
<td>978-0-7636-5647-8</td>
<td>(2-4)</td>
<td></td>
<td>Board Book</td>
<td>A vibrantly illustrated board book with gentle behavioral recommendations that can make the world a happy place for toddlers.</td>
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<td>(Neal Porter/Roaring Brook/Macmillan, $16.99)</td>
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<td>Grasshopper and his bug band provide what ant needs to bring her “sticky burden” back to her colony. Bold, colorful illustrations. (3-5)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Animal 1 2 3</td>
<td>written and illustrated by Britta Teckentrup</td>
<td>(Chronicle, $12.99)</td>
<td>978-1-4521-0993-0</td>
<td>(2-4)</td>
<td></td>
<td>Board Book</td>
<td>Have fun counting animals of all sizes, shapes, and colors and lifting the number flap. Amusing, lively illustrations.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Animal Spots and Stripes</td>
<td>written and illustrated by Britta Teckentrup</td>
<td>(Chronicle, $12.99)</td>
<td>978-1-4521-0994-7</td>
<td>(2-4)</td>
<td></td>
<td>Board Book</td>
<td>Discover the answers in the bright, playful illustrations of a menagerie of animals.</td>
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<td>Baby Be Kind</td>
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<td>Board Book</td>
<td>A vibrantly illustrated board book with gentle behavioral recommendations that can make the world a happy place for toddlers.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bea at Ballet</td>
<td>written and illustrated by Rachel Isadora</td>
<td>(Nancy Paulsen Books/Penguin, $12.99)</td>
<td>978-0-399-25409-3</td>
<td>(3-5)</td>
<td></td>
<td>Graphic Format</td>
<td>Bea and her friends love learning about ballet and dancing. Simple, clear multimedia illustrations.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bears in Beds</td>
<td>by Shirley Parenteau, illustrated by David Walker</td>
<td>(Candlewick, $15.99)</td>
<td>978-0-7636-5338-5</td>
<td>(3-5)</td>
<td></td>
<td>Graphic Format</td>
<td>Five sleepy bears fill cozy beds until a nighttime noise scares them. What can big brown bear do? Warm acrylic illustrations.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ben Loves Bear</td>
<td>written and illustrated by David McPhail</td>
<td>(Appleseed/Abrams, $8.95)</td>
<td>978-1-4197-0386-7</td>
<td>(2-5)</td>
<td></td>
<td>Graphic Format</td>
<td>Follow the adventures of a boy and his bear as they share their day. Expressive, animated illustrations accompany easy-to-read text.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Bow-Wow Wiggle Waggle**
written and illustrated by Mary Newell DePalma
(Eerdmans, $14.99) 978-0-8028-5408-7
Sounds are the words as a boy’s dog chases a cat instead of his ball. Simple watercolor illustrations. (4-6)

**Charley’s First Night**
by Amy Hest, illustrated by Helen Oxenbury
(Candlewick, $15.99) 978-0-7636-4055-2
The brand-new puppy doesn’t want to sleep alone. Can Henry make him comfortable in his new home? Soft pencil and watercolor illustrations. (3-6)

**Christmas Wombat**
by Jackie French, illustrated by Bruce Whatley
(Clarion/HMH, $16.99) 978-0-547-86872-1
The wombat usually scratches, sleeps, and cuts grass, but a windfall of carrots disturbs his usual routine. Humorous acrylic illustrations. (2-5)

**Christmastime**
written and illustrated by Alison Jay
(Dial/Penguin, $16.99) 978-0-8037-3804-1
Learn about Christmas and enjoy a treasure hunt for songs of the season. Soft oil illustrations. (3-6)

**Clothesline Clues to Jobs People Do**
by Kathryn Heling and Deborah Hembrook, illustrated by Andy Robert Davies
(Charlesbridge, $14.95) 978-1-58089-251-3
Who wears a uniform and cap? Who wears blue overalls? Rhymed text and colorful animated illustrations. (4-6)

**Cold Snap**
by Eileen Spinelli, illustrated by Marjorie Priceman
(Knopf/Random House, $17.99) 978-0-375-85700-3
A week of very cold weather in a small town brings out the best in everyone. What a relief when it’s over! Lively gouache on watercolor paper illustrations. (4-6)

**The Day Louis Got Eaten**
written and illustrated by John Fardell
(Andersen Press/Lerner, $16.95) 978-1-4677-0315-4
Sarah, encountering unexpected perils, attempts to rescue her brother who was eaten by a Gulper. Dynamic, cartoonish illustrations. (4-7)

**Demolition**
by Sally Sutton, illustrated by Brian Lovelock
(Candlewick, $15.99) 978-0-7636-5830-4
The sounds and movements of a building’s demolition are told in poetic form. Dramatic pigmented-ink illustrations. (2-5)

**Dinosaur Thunder**
by Marion Dane Bauer, illustrated by Margaret Chodos-Irvine
(Scholastic, $16.99) 978-0-590-45296-0
All his family’s reassurances do not comfort frightened Brannon until big brother Chad comes up with the explanation of dinosaur thunder. Simple but evocative full-color prints. (3-6)

**Dog Loves Drawing**
written and illustrated by Louise Yates
(Knopf/Random House, $16.99) 978-0-375-87067-5
Drawing in his new sketchbook, Dog enters a world of adventures and friends. Whimsical pencil and watercolor illustrations. (3-6)

**Dolphin Baby!**
by Nicola Davies, illustrated by Brita Granström
(Candlewick, $15.99) 978-0-7636-5548-8
Soft acrylic illustrations accompany the pppffff and shreeeep of a mother-baby dolphin pair. Includes advice about saving dolphins in the wild. (3-6)
**Drummer Boy of John John**  
by Mark Greenwood, illustrated by Frané Lessac  
(Lee & Low, $18.95)  978-1-60060-652-6  
Young Trinidadian Winston pings and poms and boom bams on metal containers of different sizes and shapes, creating tunes and developing the steel drum. Colorful gouache paintings. (4-6)

**The Duckling Gets a Cookie!?**  
written and illustrated by Mo Willems  
(Hyperion/Disney, $15.99)  978-1-42315128-9  
When duckling receives a requested cookie, Pigeon rants that he never gets what he asks for. So? Signature speech-balloon text and illustrations. (3-5)

**Duck Sock Hop**  
by Jane Kohuth, illustrated by Jane Porter  
(Dial/Penguin, $16.99)  978-0-8037-3712-9  
What could be more fun than dancing in cool, colorful socks? Rhymed text and bright mixed-media illustrations. (3-5)

**The Family Tree**  
written and illustrated by David McPhail  
(Henry Holt/Macmillan, $16.99)  
978-0-8050-9057-4  
A boy needs help to save a tree that for generations has provided shade for the house and a swing for children. Watercolor and ink illustrations. (3-6)

**Five Little Monkeys Jump In the Bath**  
written and illustrated by Eileen Christelow  
(Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, $7.99)  
978-0-547-87527-9  
Lively illustrations and amusing word play make this board book an ideal read-aloud. (1-3)

**Fly, Chick, Fly!**  
by Jeanne Willis, illustrated by Tony Ross  
(Andersen Press/Lerner, $16.95)  978-1-4677-0314-7  
Father and mother owl raise three chicks. Soft pastel illustrations link the chicks’ growth to their natural surroundings. (3-6)

**Friends**  
written and illustrated by Michael Foreman  
(Andersen Press/Lerner, $16.95)  978-1-4677-0317-8  
Knowing his goldfish friend is unhappy, a cat figures out how to show him the world. Vibrant watercolor illustrations. (4-7)

**Frog and Fly: Six Slurpy Stories**  
written and illustrated by Jeff Mack  
(Philomel/Penguin, $12.99)  978-0-399-25617-2  
Will the fly outwit the frog in this humorous six-part story? Bold illustrations. (3-6)

**Get Dressed!**  
written and illustrated by Seymour Chwast  
(Appleseed/Abrams, $12.95)  978-1-4197-0107-8  
How do you dress to sing, hide, or make believe? Easy-to-read text with simple watercolors in a fold-out format. (4-6)

**The Great Sheep Shenanigans**  
by Peter Bently, illustrated by Mei Matsuoka  
(Andersen Press/Lerner, $16.95)  978-0-7613-8990-3  
Trying one disguise after another, a wily wolf is determined to capture a lamb for his supper. Colored pencil, paint, and collage illustrations. (3-5)

**Green**  
written and illustrated by Laura Vaccaro Seeger  
(Neal Porter/Roaring Brook/Macmillan, $16.99)  
978-1-59643-397-7  
The many facets of a single color are explored with minimal text in this cleverly designed and nuanced book. Oil paintings and cutouts. (3-6)
Hamsters Holding Hands
written and illustrated by Kass Reich
(Orca, $9.95) 978-1-4598-0123-3
Hamsters from one to ten interact in playful rhyme. Delicate drawings. (2-4)

Have You Seen My Cat?
written and illustrated by Eric Carle
(Simon Spotlight/S&S, $15.99) 978-1-4424-4575-8
Wondrous collage illustrations and a simple repetitive text describe a boy’s worldwide search for his lost cat. (3-5)

Hey Little Baby!
by Heather Leigh, illustrated by Geneviève Côté
(Beach Lane/S&S, $14.99) 978-1-4169-8979-0
A newborn baby discovers hands, feet, and nose. What will the future bring? Mixed-media illustrations. (0-2)

Hippospotamus
by Jeanne Willis, illustrated by Tony Ross
(Andersen Press/Lerner, $16.95) 978-1-4677-0316-1
Silly, nonsensical rhyming words advance this story of jungle animals trying to help their hippo friend. Lively, humorous pen, ink, and watercolor illustrations. (4-6)

A Home for Bird
written and illustrated by Philip C. Stead
(Neal Porter/ROaring Book/Macmillan, $16.99) 978-1-59643-711-1
Vernon the toad is determined to help his new friend, Bird, find his home, introducing him to his animal friends along the way. Humorous mixed-media illustrations. (3-7)

How to Be Friends with a Dragon
written and illustrated by Valeri Gorbachev
(Albert Whitman, $16.99) 978-0-8075-3432-8
As his sister teaches him how to treat a dragon, Simon gets involved in a series of adventures with one. Fanciful illustrations. (4-6)

*Huff & Puff
written and illustrated by Claudia Rueda
(Appleseed/Abrams, $12.95) 978-1-4197-0170-2
Play the role of the Big Bad Wolf, but be ready for a surprise twist. Die cuts with black ink and watercolor illustrations. (2-4)

I Don’t Want to be a Pea!
by Ann Bonwill, illustrated by Simon Rickerty
Hugo Hippo and Bella Bird argue over their costumes for the fairy tale fancy dress party. Colorful digital illustrations. (3-5)

I Want to Win!: A Little Princess Story
written and illustrated by Tony Ross
(Andersen Press/Lerner, $16.95) 978-0-7613-8993-4
Can a feisty princess, used to having her way at the castle, learn how to play by the rules in a school competition? Whimsical ink and watercolor illustrations. (4-6)

I’m Fast!
by Kate McMullan, illustrated by Jim McMullan
(Balzar + Bray/HarperCollins, $16.99) 978-0-06-192085-1
“Chooka chooka chooka”—the freight train goes so fast! Can the little red car win the race from Sacramento to Chicago? Engaging line drawings with watercolors. (4-7)

Isabella’s Garden
by Glenda Millard, illustrated by Rebecca Cool
(Candlewick, $16.99) 978-0-7636-6016-1
Seeds, plants, hatchlings, and a mantis all participate in seasonal changes depicted in a cumulative poem. Mixed-media illustrations. (3-5)
It’s a Tiger!
by David LaRochelle, illustrated by Jeremy Tankard
(Chronicle, $16.99) 978-0-8118-6925-6
A young child narrates the jungle adventures of running away from a persistent tiger. Bold illustrations in ink and digital media. (4-6)

Itsy Bitsy Baby Mouse
by Michelle Meadows, illustrated by Matthew Cordell
(Simon & Schuster, $15.99) 978-1-4169-3786-9
Bouncy, playful rhyme matches the energy of a baby mouse’s adventure. Cheerful watercolor illustrations. (3-6)

Just Ducks!
by Nicola Davies, illustrated by Salvatore Rubbino
(Candlewick, $15.99) 978-0-7636-5936-3
A muted urban palette illustrates this close look at our feathered neighbors in the city. (4-6)

Kali’s Song
written and illustrated by Jeanette Winter
(Schwartz & Wade/Random House, $16.99) 978-0-375-87022-4
Sent out to practice hunting mammoths, Kali makes a surprising discovery about something else he can do with his bow. Mixed-media illustrations. (4-6)

Kate and Nate Are Running Late!
by Kate Egan, illustrated by Dan Yaccarino
(Feiwel & Friends/Macmillan, $16.99) 978-1-250-00080-4
A frantic morning rush to get to school on time ends with a surprise. Rhyming text and gouache and watercolor illustrations. (4-6)

A Kiss Like This
written and illustrated by Mary Murphy
(Candlewick, $12.99) 978-0-7636-6182-3
All the little ones kiss their grown-ups. Lyrical language and warm digital ink and watercolor illustrations on die-cut pages. (1-3)

Kite Day: A Bear and Mole Story
written and illustrated by Will Hillenbrand
(Holiday House, $16.95) 978-0-8234-1603-5
Two playful friends prepare for a day of kite flying, but a surprise is waiting. Simple, engaging language and colorful mixed-media illustrations. (2-6)

Let’s Go for a Drive!
written and illustrated by Mo Willems
(Hyperion/Disney, $8.99) 978-1-4231-6482-1
Elephant and Piggie’s plan to take a car trip fails when they forget one crucial item. Colorful animated illustrations. (4-6)

Listen to My Trumpet!
written and illustrated by Mo Willems
(Hyperion/Disney, $8.99) 978-1-4231-5404-4
Piggie has a new trumpet. Elephant tells the truth about his friend’s “music”—and gets a surprise. Energetic color cartoons add to the humor. (4-6)

Little Bee
written and illustrated by Edward Gibbs
(Little, Brown/Hachette, $8.99) 978-0-316-12707-3
There is a commotion in the jungle and everyone is running away for safety. Vivid illustrations capture movement and emotions. (1-3)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Author(s)</th>
<th>Illustrator(s)</th>
<th>Publisher</th>
<th>ISBN</th>
<th>Short Review</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Little Bird</td>
<td>by Germano Zullo, illustrated by Albertine, translated by Claudia Zoe Bedrick</td>
<td>(Enchanted Lion, $16.95)</td>
<td>978-1-59270-118-6</td>
<td>When a man releases a large group of birds, what is he to do when one stays behind? Colorful, whimsical illustrations. (3-6)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Little Dog Lost: The True Story of a Brave Dog Named Baltic</td>
<td>written and illustrated by Mônica Carnesi</td>
<td>(Nancy Paulsen Books/Penguin, $15.99)</td>
<td>978-0-399-25666-0</td>
<td>Stranded on ice, a dog is rescued in the Baltic Sea and adopted by the sailor who saved him. Illustrated in watercolor, pen, and ink. (4-6)</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>*Little Tug</td>
<td>written and illustrated by Stephen Savage</td>
<td>(Neal Porter/Roaring Brook/Macmillan, $12.99)</td>
<td>978-1-59643-648-0</td>
<td>Little Tug knows what to do when the sailing ship, the speed boat, and the ocean liner need him. Simple outline drawings with dramatic backgrounds. (2-5)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Llama Llama Time to Share</td>
<td>written and illustrated by Anna Dewdney</td>
<td>(Viking/Penguin, $17.99)</td>
<td>978-0-670-01233-6</td>
<td>In rhyming text, the ideas of play and sharing are explored as a young llama meets a new friend, Nelly Gnu. Expressive oil illustrations painted in oil. (2-5)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lola Reads to Leo</td>
<td>by Anna McQuinn, illustrated by Rosalind Beardshaw</td>
<td>(Charlesbridge, $15.95)</td>
<td>978-1-58089-403-6</td>
<td>A book-loving sister learns to help baby brother Leo by sharing stories for every occasion. Acrylic illustrations sweetly enrich the narrative. (3-6)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Lonely Book</td>
<td>by Kate Bernheimer, illustrated by Chris Sheban</td>
<td>(Schwartz &amp; Wade/Random House, $17.99)</td>
<td>978-0-375-86226-7</td>
<td>When the book became old and worn, it was no longer taken from the shelf until... Soft watercolor and graphite illustrations of a warm library setting. (4-7)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lovabye Dragon</td>
<td>by Barbara Joossee, illustrated by Randy Cecil</td>
<td>(Candlewick, $15.99)</td>
<td>978-0-7636-5408-5</td>
<td>A lonely girl is found in a castle by a lonely dragon and they become friends. Textured oil illustrations. (3-6)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Make a Wish Bear</td>
<td>written and illustrated by Greg Foley</td>
<td>(Viking/Penguin, $15.99)</td>
<td>978-0-670-01239-8</td>
<td>A little bear’s friends make his wish come true. Simple, gentle illustrations. (4-7)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Man from the Land of Fandango</td>
<td>by Margaret Mahy, illustrated by Polly Dunbar</td>
<td>(Clarion/HMH, $16.99)</td>
<td>978-0-547-81988-4</td>
<td>A fun-loving man breaks out of a drawing and bounces along with two children to encounter a set of whimsical animals. Exuberant watercolor collage illustrations. (2-5)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Max and Ruby's Treasure Hunt</td>
<td>written and illustrated by Rosemary Wells</td>
<td>(Viking/Penguin, $17.99)</td>
<td>978-0-670-06317-8</td>
<td>When rain spoils Max and Ruby’s outdoor tea party, Grandma comes to the rescue. Cheerful ink, watercolor, and gouache illustrations. (4-6)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
**Best Children’s Books of the Year Under Five**

* = Outstanding Merit

(2-4) Suggested age range

1. **Mice on Ice**
   by Rebecca Emberley, illustrated by Ed Emberley
   (Holiday House, $14.95) 978-0-8234-2576-1
   Simple text and colorful cut paper illustrations are cleverly combined in this very easy-to-read story of a wintertime adventure. (3-5)

2. **The Monster Returns**
   written and illustrated by Peter McCarty
   (Henry Holt/Macmillan, $16.99) 978-0-8050-9030-7
   Jeremy figures out a way to welcome Monster back by involving all the neighborhood kids. Pen-and-ink and watercolor illustrations. (3-5)

3. **Moonlight**
   by Helen V. Griffith, illustrated by Laura Dronzek
   (Greenwillow/HarperCollins, $16.99)
   Nighttime comes to the forest too slowly for Rabbit to stay awake, but while he sleeps, the moonlight comes out to play. Eye-catching acrylics. (2-5)

4. **Mousterpiece**
   written and illustrated by Jane Breskin Zalben
   (Neal Porter/Roaring Book/Macmillan, $16.99)
   Living in a museum, a mouse named Jansen creates art in the styles of the greatest modern artists until she discovers a style of her own. Perfect for art-loving families. (4-7)

5. **Mr. King’s Things**
   written and illustrated by Geneviève Côté
   (Kids Can Press, $16.95) 978-1-55453-700-6
   When Mr. King’s friends find value and use in objects he carelessly discards, he is inspired to recycle with invention and fun. Lively, colorful mixed-media illustrations. (4-7)

6. **My Big Boy Undies**
   written and illustrated by Karen Katz
   (Grosset & Dunlap/Penguin, $7.99)
   978-0-448-45705-5
   It’s so exciting to move into toddlerhood and exchange diapers for underpants! Simple, animated, colorful illustrations. (3-5)

7. **My Dad Is Big and Strong, BUT . . . : A Bedtime Story**
   by Coralie Saudo, illustrated by Kris Di Giacomo, translated by Claudia Zoe Bedrick
   (Enchanted Lion, $16.95) 978-1-59270-122-3
   In a funny story of role reversal, a son can’t get his dad to go to bed. Humorous earth-tone illustrations with computer-manipulated collage. (4-6)

8. **My No, No, No Day!**
   written and illustrated by Rebecca Patterson
   (Viking/Penguin, $16.99) 978-0-670-01405-7
   A day full of meltdowns makes Bella and everyone around her unhappy. Will tomorrow be better? Cartoon-like watercolors. (3-5)

9. **My Snake Blake**
   by Randy Siegel, illustrated by Serge Bloch
   (Roaring Brook/Macmillan, $16.99) 978-1-59643-584-1
   Blake the snake is a fabulous pet—he cooks, walks the dog, and writes! Simple line cartoon illustrations. (3-6)

10. **No Jumping on the Bed!**
    written and illustrated by Tedd Arnold
    (Dial/Penguin, $16.99) 978-0-8037-3563-7
    When Walter jumps on his bed, it crashes through the floor with hilarious consequences. Colorful graphite and Photoshop, cartoon-like illustrations. (3-7)
**Best Children’s Books of the Year Under Five**

* = Outstanding Merit

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**Oh No, George!**
written and illustrated by Chris Haughton
(Candlewick, $15.99) 978-0-7636-5546-4
George is a dog who really wants to be good, but having so many temptations makes that very hard! Quirky, vivid illustrations. (4-6)

**Oh! What a Surprise!**
written and illustrated by Suzanne Bloom
(Boyds Mills, $16.95) 978-1-59078-892-9
Goose and Bear are busy making surprises, and Fox is eager to participate. Colorful pastel-like illustrations. (3-5)

**Ollie’s School Day: A Yes-and-No Book**
by Stephanie Calmenson, illustrated by Abby Carter
(Holiday House, $15.95) 978-0-8234-2377-4
Is this story about exploring a jungle? No! Is it a whimsical view of a day in an early childhood classroom? Yes! Watercolor illustrations add to the fun. (4-6)

**On My Way to the Bath**
by Sarah Maizes, illustrated by Michael Paraskevas
(Walker/Bloomsbury, $15.99) 978-0-8027-2364-2
Livi’s creative procrastination slows her trip to the tub. Will she ever get wet? Playful, digital art. (3-6)

**One Special Day: A Story for Big Brothers & Sisters**
by Lola M. Schaefer, illustrated by Jessica Meserve
(Hyperion/Disney, $16.99) 978-1-4231-3760-3
An energetic and imaginative boy becomes a big brother. Digital oil pastel illustrations. (3-6)

**One Spotted Giraffe: A Counting Pop-Up Book**
written and illustrated by Petr Horáček
(Candlewick, $15.99) 978-0-7636-6157-1
Colorful animals teach counting numbers from one to ten through simple pop-ups. Vibrant mixed-media illustrations. (3-5)

**One Two That’s My Shoe!**
written and illustrated by Alison Murray
(Hyperion/Disney, $16.99) 978-1-4231-4329-1
In this sprightly variation on a familiar rhyme, readers count along as a girl pursues the puppy who has taken her shoe. Colorful illustrations. (2-5)

**Peekaboo Baby**
written and illustrated by Sebastien Braun
(Candlewick, $6.99) 978-0-7636-5933-2
All of babies’ favorite things are part of this playful look at one baby’s day. Digital illustrations with patterns and color support this lift-the-flap book. (0-2)

**Petunia Goes Wild**
written and illustrated by Paul Schmid
(Harper/HarperCollins, $12.99) 978-0-06-196334-6
Petunia longs to be a wild animal, to her parent’s dismay. Simple line drawings add to the humor. (3-6)

**Pig Pig Meets the Lion**
written and illustrated by David McPhail
(Charlesbridge, $15.95) 978-1-58089-358-9
The friendly lion who escaped from the zoo plays with Pig Pig in his new-found home. Prepositions abound. Warm watercolors. (3-6)

**Plant a Kiss**
by Amy Krouse Rosenthal, illustrated by Peter H. Reynolds
(Harper/HarperCollins, $14.99) 978-0-06-198675-8
What happens when you plant a kiss in the ground? Spare prose is encircled by expressive illustrations. (4-6)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Author(s)</th>
<th>Publisher</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><em>Rocket Writes a Story</em></td>
<td>written and illustrated by Tad Hills</td>
<td>(Schwartz &amp; Wade/Random House, $17.99)</td>
<td>978-0-375-87086-6</td>
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<td><em>Step Gently Out</em></td>
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<td>Silly Doggy!</td>
<td>written and illustrated by Adam Stower</td>
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<td><em>Summer Days and Nights</em></td>
<td>written and illustrated by Wong Herbert Yee</td>
<td>(Christy Ottaviano/Henry Holt BFYR/Macmillan, $14.99) 978-0-8050-9078-9</td>
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<td>Sky Color</td>
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<td>by Julia Donaldson, illustrated by Axel Sceffler</td>
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<td><em>There Was a Tree</em></td>
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<td>(Nancy Paulsen Books/Penguin, $16.99) 978-0-399-25741-4</td>
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* = Outstanding Merit
Read Aloud
(2-4) Suggested age range
Graphic Board Book

*Best Children's Books of the Year Under Five 2013 Edition*

- **Rocket Writes a Story**
  - Written and illustrated by Tad Hills
  - (Schwartz & Wade/Random House, $17.99)
  - With encouragement from his teacher, the little yellow bird, Rocket uses his new-found words to tell about his new friend. Simple, bold oil and colored-pencil illustrations. (3-5)

- **Silly Doggy!**
  - Written and illustrated by Adam Stower
  - (Orchard/Scholastic, $16.99) 978-0-545-37323-4
  - Lily reluctantly returns her newfound pet. Now will she find another one? Hilarious, realistic illustrations capture the innocence of mistaken identity. (4-7)

- **Tabby McTat: The Musical Cat**
  - By Julia Donaldson, illustrated by Axel Scheffler
  - (Arthur A. Levine/Scholastic, $16.99) 978-0-545-45168-0
  - In this sweet, rhyming story, a street musician and his cat are separated. Will they find each other again? Bright, mixed-media illustrations. (2-6)

- **Sleep Like a Tiger**
  - By Mary Logue, illustrated by Pamela Zagarenski
  - (Houghton Mifflin/HMH, $16.99) 978-0-547-64102-7
  - A little girl asks her parents if every creature sleeps. Although she says she’s not ready for bed, eventually she imitates the animals. Mixed-media paintings. (3-6)

- **There Was a Tree**
  - Written and illustrated by Rachel Isadora
  - (Nancy Paulsen Books/Penguin, $16.99) 978-0-399-25741-4
  - Bright collages depict the African setting of the song “The Green Grass Grew All Around.” Music included. (3-6)

- **This Is Not My Hat**
  - Written and illustrated by Jon Klassen
  - (Candlewick, $15.99) 978-0-7636-5599-0
  - A little fish steals a hat but is sure his plan to hide in the weeds will succeed. But will it? Digitally created illustrations. (4-6)
This Monster Needs a Haircut
written and illustrated by Bathany Barton
(Dial/Penguin, $16.99) 978-0-8037-3733-4
Will Stewart still be scary if he gets a haircut? Will he lose his identity? Monster-like watercolors. (3-5)

The Three Ninja Pigs
by Corey Rosen Schwartz, illustrated by Dan Santat
(Putnam/Penguin, $16.99) 978-0-399-25514-4
Through diligent mastery of self-defense techniques, the third pig succeeds where her brothers failed and outtrivels the wolf. Clever rhymed text and colorful engaging illustrations. Glossary. (4-6)

Toads on Toast
by Linda Bailey, illustrated by Colin Jack
(Kids Can Press, $16.95) 978-1-55453-662-7
Fox is tired of eating the same thing every day. A new cookbook offers fresh challenges. Humorous, colorful digital artwork. (4-6)

Together at Christmas
by Eileen Spinelli, illustrated by Bin Lee
(Albert Whitman, $15.99) 978-0-8075-8010-3
Ten little mice seek shelter from the falling snow. The natural scene is set with luminous paintings. (3-7)

Too Shy for Show-and-Tell
by Beth Bracken, illustrated by Jennifer Bell
(Capstone, $16.99) 978-1-4048-6654-6
Young Sam is scared to share before the class and tries to avoid it. How will he do when it is his turn? Humorous illustrations. (3-7)

*The Town Mouse and the Country Mouse: An Aesop Fable
retold and illustrated by Helen Ward
(Templar/Candlewick, $16.99) 978-0-7636-6098-7
This timeless fable is retold with sumptuous, expressive illustrations. (4-7)
**What Can a Crane Pick Up?**  
by Rebecca Kai Dotlich, illustrated by Mike Lowery  
(Knopf/Random House, $16.99)  
978-0-375-86726-2  
In rhyming text and humorous illustrations, all the surprising things this amazing machine can pick up are shown. (3-5)

**What Little Boys Are Made Of**  
written and illustrated by Robert Neubecker  
(Balzer + Bray/HarperCollins, $14.99)  
978-0-06-202355-1  
Shiny and colorful illustrations waltz us through the adventurous fantasy life of a young boy. (4-6)

**What We Wear: Dressing Up around the World**  
by Maya Ajmera, Elise Hofer Derstine, and Cynthia Pon  
(Charlesbridge, $16.95)  
978-1-58089-416-6  
Children from around the world show off the clothing they wear for play, school, sports, and celebrations. Stunning photographs of the children. (4-6)

**What’s the Time, Mr. Wolf?**  
written and illustrated by Debi Glior (Walker/Bloomsbury, $16.99)  
978-0-8027-3432-7  
As the hours pass by, Mr. Wolf wonders whether any of his friends remember that it’s his birthday. Humorous, detailed watercolor and ink illustrations. (3-5)

**When Dads Don’t Grow Up**  
by Marjorie Blain Parker, illustrated by R. W. Alley  
(Dial/Penguin, $16.99)  
978-0-8037-3717-4  
What fun it is to have a father who is the perfect playmate—still a kid at heart! Humorous animated illustrations. (4-6)

**Who Has This Tail?**  
by Laura Hulbert, illustrated by Erik Brooks  
(Henry Holt/Macmillan, $16.99)  
978-0-8050-9429-9  
This question-answer book is based on the partial illustration of an animal, such as a beaver or a rattlesnake, and how it uses its tail. Bright, bold watercolors. (4-6)

**Whoa, Baby, Whoa!**  
by Grace Nichols, illustrated by Eleanor Taylor  
(Bloomsbury, $15.99)  
978-1-59990-742-0  
People tell baby to stop before he gets hurt, until he finally does something that amazes everyone. Watercolor illustrations. (0-3)

**Whose Toes Are Those?**  
by Sally Symes, illustrated by Nick Sharratt  
(Candlewick, $7.99)  
978-0-7636-6274-5  
Simple rhymes, bold, clear art, and a lift-the-flap format invite youngsters to guess which animal. (1-3)

**Wild about You!**  
by Judy Sierra, illustrated by Marc Brown  
(Knopf/Random House, $17.99)  
978-0-307-93178-8  
The pandas and tree kangaroos are sad that they don’t have new babies to take care of, but an abandoned egg and a stray kitten change that. Bright, energetic mixed-media illustrations. (3-5)
## Best Children’s Books of the Year Under Five

**2013 Edition**

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### *You Choose*

by Pippa Goodhart, illustrated by Nick Sharratt  
(Kane Miller/EDC, P $7.99) 978-1-61067-076-0  
A whole range of thematically arranged scenarios, accompanied by bold, colorful illustrations, stimulate imagination and invite discussion. (5-7)

### *Z is for Moose*

by Kelly Bingham, illustrated by Paul O. Zelinsky  
(Greenwillow/HarperCollins, $16.99) 978-0-06-079984-7  
Sometimes it’s just too hard to wait your turn—even if moving means scrambling the alphabet! Cartoon-like illustrations with wonderfully humorous details. (4-6)

### Zoom, Rocket, Zoom!

by Margaret Mayo, illustrated by Alex Ayliffe  
(Walker/Bloomsbury, $16.99) 978-0-8027-2790-9  
Vibrant cut-paper collages bring concepts of outer space exploration into focus for young readers. (3-6)

### Zorro Gets an Outfit

written and illustrated by Carter Goodrich  
(Simon & Schuster, $15.99) 978-1-4424-3535-3  
Pug Zorro’s feelings about his new, embarrassing outfit are vividly conveyed in simple text and expressive watercolors. (4-7)