



## 2026 Childcan's DPIL Reading Guidelines for Children born in 2021

### **Before Reading With Your Child:**

*Snuggling together to read a book builds a child's language and learning. Reading a good book multiple times with different questions encourages a deeper understanding of language and stronger comprehension. Read the book to yourself before reading it to your child so you can share any personal experience that relates to the story or any background information about the topic so that your child has more of a connection to the story.*

### **During Reading:**

*There are six important concepts to practice. Choose one or two each time you read.*

*Book Awareness: Point out the title and author and ask what they think the book will be about.*

*Word Awareness: Find rhyming words, names of people or animals, words connected to the topic of the book.*

*Knowledge: Each book has a topic. Help your child to understand the topic by discussing the book's message or by sharing extra information about the topic.*

*Math Skills: Counting is one of the easiest ways to bring math to a story. Count items on the page. Some stories bring in math topics by using a clock, measuring something, talking about shapes, etc.*

*Story Line: As you go through the story, stop and ask questions about what just happened or why it happened.*

*Relating to the Storyline: Children need to relate to a story to remember it better. Ask them how they would have felt in the same situation or if they have ever done anything like that.*

### **After Reading:**

*Think of activities that repeat what was done in the story or increase their knowledge of the topic by sharing information, or give them a chance to express what they learned or felt by drawing something. Many of the books stress colours, shapes, and directional words. Find more examples around your home.*

*2026 DPIL Books for children born in 2021 focus on school preparation and readiness. Some books might use pictures for words (rebus), some books are about science, or folk tales and some deal with topics such as appreciation. Rhymes and poetry continue to be used and enjoyed.*

*Below are some helpful guidelines to use when reading stories.*

### **Freddie the Flyer by Danielle Metcalf-Chenail and Fred Carmichael**

A gorgeous picture book that pays homage to aviator Freddie Carmichael — the first Indigenous commercial pilot in the Arctic — with each month of the year highlighting moments from his life, the beauty of the North and the power of dreams. When Freddie was young, he saw a plane up close for the first time when it dropped off supplies at his family's remote bush camp. He was instantly hooked. Freddie has flown for nearly seventy years, doing everything from supply runs to search and rescue to transporting dog teams to far-flung areas. This book celebrates Freddie's early dreams of flying and his later achievements. Readers move with Freddie through the year, hearing about his journey as a pilot and leader, while learning the names of the months in Gwich'in and Inuvialuktun at the same time. Art from Inuvialuit painter Audrea Loreen-Wulf perfectly captures the incredible Western Arctic as well as Freddie's love for aviation.

### **Frostfire by Elly MacKay**

Piles of snow and icicles hanging every where can be pointed out by your child on each page. Explain what a dragon is and then have your child listen to what a snow dragon is. Have your child point out the features of the snow dragon in the pictures. Explain what an imaginary animal is and how dragons are imaginary. When walking outside on a winter's day, point out the icicles and snow banks that you might have around your house.

### **There are No Ants in This Book by Rosemary Mosco**

Talk about where people go for a picnic and how if there isn't a picnic table, a blanket is used and people sit on the blanket with the picnic food to eat. Talk about the kinds of insects you don't want at a picnic - ants being one of them. Ask your child where they think ants live. The story begins to describe all the different kinds of ants that live around the world. Have your child count the number of ants they see on each page. The last couple of pages shows pictures of ants, their names and where they are from.

### **Dim Sum Palace by X. Fang**

Have your child share what their favourite food is. Talk about different countries and cultures have special foods. Talk about that families from China have many different foods. A little girl's love of dim sum spills over into her dreams, taking her on a fantastical food-filled adventure. Liddy is so excited about going to the Dim Sum Palace tomorrow with her family that she can't sleep. So when a delicious smell wafts into her room, she hops out of bed, opens her door and steps into . . . an actual palace of dim sum! There are dumplings, baos, buns and more delicious treats than one girl can possibly eat. Liddy just has to take a bite, but she slips and falls . . . into a bowl of dumpling filling. The chefs are so busy rolling, folding and pinching dough that they don't notice they've prepared a most unusual dumpling for the Empress — a Liddy dumpling! Worst of all, she looks good enough to eat.

### **On This Airplane by Lourdes Heuer**

In this story, have your child follow the family onto the airplane and find out all the people that they meet. Have your child point out the the family of four and then all of the people on the plane as they are mentioned in the story.

### **Sarabeth's Garage by Melanie Florence**

A picture book that celebrates doing your own thing in the face of society's expectations . . . and a sweet story about a girl, her dad, her disapproving grandma and, most importantly, cars. Sarabeth loves cars. Talk to your child about your favourite car. If your child has toy cars, bring them out and count them, name their colours, pick their favourite, etc. Sarabeth loves the way the engines sometimes roar like lions and other times purr like kittens. She loves seeing sports cars that are sleek and fast like cheetahs and boxy SUVs that trundle along like elephants.

Have your child name other animals that the cars are alike. Most of all, Sarabeth loves to help her dad at his garage. Talk about the things in your garage that your child is interested in and would like to learn more about. Sarabeth's grandmother doesn't approve. She thinks little girls should play with dolls and wear dresses and always have clean hands. But when her car starts grumbling like a walrus instead of purring like a kitten, who will be there to help? Help your child to understand that the grandmother has traditional views of what children should be like and that for some children, they prefer choices and don't want to be limited by what others think.

### **The Great Dinosaur's Sleepover by Linda Bailey**

Have your child look at the first page of the story and find all the examples of dinosaurs. Talk to your child about dinosaurs and see what kind of information they already know about dinosaurs. Have your child count the dinosaurs on each page and pick their favourite one.

### **In the Clouds by Elly MacKay**

As you read about all the questions the little girl has about clouds, have your child share what they know about clouds and what questions they might like to ask to learn more about clouds. At the end of the book the little girl's questions are all answered and your child gets to see the different kinds of clouds and their names. Have your child pick their favourite cloud and look for it when they go outside.

### **The Wandering Feather by Lisa Franette**

When a gust of wind blows a feather off a flying red-tailed hawk, it marks the beginning of that feather's quest to find a new home. Enjoy having your child describe where the feather goes (The feather ends up in a squirrel's nest, a woman's hat, and atop a sandcastle) and guess why it doesn't feel right. Soon, it's picked up by a little girl who lovingly takes it home to join two other feathers as part of a special craft project. When the project is complete, talk to your child about what a dreamcatcher is. At the end of the book, we see the dreamcatcher swinging in the breeze in the window of the girl's bedroom. The story includes an author's note about dreamcatchers and what they symbolize to many Indigenous peoples.

### **Beautiful You, Beautiful Me by Tasha Spillet-Sumner**

Talk to your child about what they like to do with each parent. As you read the story, ask your child if each activity is something that was on their list. Ask your child what they see on each page and give details about how each person looks. Repeat the Mother's message: "You're part of me and I'm part of you. I'm beautiful like me, and you're beautiful like you." Explain what it means. Have the child point to each of the animals pictured on the pages when they walk outside. Have them name each animal and talk about how the baby animal is different from the mother animal. Have your child say what colour Izzy's eyes are and the mother's eyes are.

### **Count on Me by Miguel Tanco**

-Find math words: (geometric shapes, concentric circles, curve, infinite)

-Topics such as the interests of people can be explored with each reading (art, music, science, math, etc.).

-In this book, the little girl tells us that Math is all around us. It's often hidden, and she loves finding it. Be prepared to find out about a lot of math topics and discuss different ones at different times that you read this book,

-If Math is all around us and hidden, what do you know about Math?

-What shapes do you know?

-Run your finger on the smallest circle in the lake and then run your finger over each slightly bigger circle. When you have traced around all those circles, do you remember what they are called? (Concentric circles)

- Find all the shapes you see on the page where the brother and sister are building things together. Don't forget to find the shapes the cat sees as it looks out the window.
- At the top of the slide when she is up so high, she sees many kind of curvy lines. Trace around all the curves that you see.
- How do the other children feel waiting for their turn as the girl draws a curvy shape?
- List all the groups that you see when they are in the kitchen eating.
- Have you ever made paper airplanes and flown them?
- What part of the math things that the little girl liked did you like as well?
- How do you make a paper airplane?
- What patterns can you see in your home? What patterns do you see on your clothes?
- What's your way of seeing the world? What do you like to do?
- Make paper airplanes and fly them.
- Listen to music and pick out your favourite song. Make up a dance to go with it.
- Make a card by drawing your favourite thing to do on the front of the card. Give the card to someone you like. Remember to print your name in the card.