



## 2026 Childcan's DPIL Reading Guidelines for Children born in 2023

### **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 2023 - talk about values and character as well as issues such as fear, conflict, love and safety. Colours, letters, and numbers are common themes. Nursery rhymes or wordless books that allow you to build your own story along with your child, add to the fun of reading.*

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

### **Towed by Toad by Jashar Awan**

For children who like to notice vehicles or play with toy cars, this book will delight with all of the animals driving them. Have your child name the animal in each car. Have them count the cars on each page. Eventually, have them count all of the vehicles throughout the story. Point out the rhyming words on each page. Point out that Toad works at his Dad's garage and sometimes, we all need some help from our family.

### **No No, Baby! by Anne Hunter**

Have your child point to the forest animals on the page and name the animals. Have your child point to the things the baby squirrel wanted to eat. Explain why the other animals didn't like that. Explain to your child that owls sleep in the day and fly about at night, to help explain why the owl told the baby squirrel to go away. Have your child guess how baby squirrel felt and how it showed when the baby squirrel went back to his own house in the tree. Help your child to understand what happened to make baby squirrel come out into the forest again.

### **Solutions for Cold Feet by Carey Sookocheff**

Talk to your child about problems they have and give examples of problems you have and talk about how you solved the problems. Have your child look at the first picture and identify what the problem is, then help them think of ways to solve the problem. At the end of each problem, discuss with your child which solution was the best way to solve that problem, or if they had other ideas on how to solve the problem. In rereading the book, count how many problems were discussed. Have your child talk about a boring day and list as many ways as possible on how to help solve that problem.

### **We Adopted a Baby Chick by Lori Joy Smith**

Have your child identify all the pets in this story. Talk about how Albert, the sheep, feels about the new chick and why he might feel that way. Talk about the changes in animals as they grow.

### **Mii amanda ezhi-gkendmaanh/This is How I Know by Brittany Luby**

A great story to learn about the seasons. As each season goes by, starting with summer, a young child and her grandmother spend time outdoors to see all the signs of each season. Even inside a house, during the winter months, the child spots changes. Point out that the story is written in two languages. The author of this book remembers these activities when she was a child living by the Great Lakes.

### **Big Bear Hug by Nicholas Oldland**

Talk to your child about all the things and people they like to hug. Have your child explain why they give hugs. Next have them list all the animals they can that live in forests. In this story, a huge bear is wandering through the forest - but wait a minute! Who's that he's hugging? A beaver? And a moose? And a bird? And a tree? Welcome to the world of Big Bear Hug, a contemporary fable about a bear who has an appetite for hugging everything in sight - even creatures that bears have been known to eat. One day, the benevolent bear meets up with a human. This human proceeds to do something the bear cannot understand: he raises his axe and begins to cut down a tree. Suddenly the bear doesn't feel like hugging anymore and must make a difficult decision on how to stop this destruction in his forest. The environmental message of Big Bear Hug is both funny and powerful, while simple enough to engage very young children and show them the awesome power of a hug.

### **Sand Cakes by Kallie George**

For children who love going to the beach, they will enjoy all of the pretend food that the youngest child of the family makes when she's by the ocean with her two older siblings and her

parents. Point out all of the activities people at the beach enjoy. Have your child notice the disappointment on the youngster's face with each refusal to try one of her sand foods. Have your child guess at each page who or what might want her sand treats. Help them understand the Whoosh at the end of the story and what eventually ate all of her treats. Have your child understand why that made her so happy.

### **Carson Crosses Canada by Linda Bailey**

- Find names of places. (Tofino, Pacific Ocean, The Rockies, Lake Winnipeg, Niagara Falls, Atlantic Ocean) and notice that all the names start with an upper case letter.)
- Have your child point out something of interest in each area.
- Have your child predict what the surprise for Carson, the dog is.
- Why did Annie and Carson travel across Canada to go to Newfoundland? (Annie's sister needed help because she was sick).
- How do you feel when you are getting ready for a trip?
- How do you feel when you are driving a long way in your car?
- Which stop did they make that you found really interesting and would like to see?
- What is your favourite food? What food did they have that you would like to try?

Plan a short road trip, and have your child help suggest ideas to look for and stop to do.  
Plan a picnic meal for a backyard picnic and have your child help to make the food and pack it in a basket.

### **Hugs are Not for Everyone by Ella Russell**

For some children, hugs by parents are welcome, but for many young children, they have to learn about hugs from other people. As children learn about how to accept hugs, this story shows that for some children, there are other ways other than hugs to show people's feelings.

### **They Say Blue by Jillian Tamaki**

A book of seasons and the colours each brings. Have your child look at each picture and name the colour, then name something in your house that is that colour. Try to have your child guess where the child might be and what she's doing on each page. (e.g. in the ocean, at a dance class, in the playground at school).

### **Spaghetti by Marilee's Brown**

A clever, tiny mouse named Spaghetto loves to collect things. That is, until his parents tell him to stop collecting. His house becomes so full that his parents tell him to get rid of everything. Rather than throwing anything away, spaghetti decides to use everything he collects to make things for his family. All manner of creations are made by Spaghetto. In this way, he can still keep everything he has collected. Have your child gather items to make a craft. Enjoy a walk outside and collect things from nature and come up with ideas on what to make with them.

### **Metis Like Me by Tasha Hilderman**

Whether or not you're Métis, there's so much to experience and learn about this amazing Indigenous culture — take a picture book journey into Métis crafts, music and cooking with friends who love to share. Are you Métis like me? A group of children of Métis descent share and explore all the ways they celebrate and experience their heritage — enjoying traditional foods like bannock bread and Saskatoon berries; crafting with beads; sharing stories, dance, music and songs. Each child shares a different way they enjoy honouring their backgrounds and weaving parts of the rich tapestry that makes up Métis culture. One child, though, has grown up disconnected from their history, and can't join in with the others in the same way. But they soon see it's never too late to learn, celebrate or become a part of a community in which Métis and non-Métis alike can discover the richness of an often-overlooked culture. This rhythmic, jubilant

book will encourage young readers of all backgrounds to celebrate their own heritage and learn more about Métis history, and contains an author's note, recipe and dictionary to further inspire.