



2026 Childcan's DPIL Reading Guidelines for Children born in 2025

Before Reading with Your Child:

Snuggling together to read a book builds a child's language and learning.

Find rhyming words, names of people or animals, words connected to the topic of the book.

Counting is one of the easiest ways to bring math to a story, count items on the page.

Below are some helpful guidelines to use when rereading stories.

Boozhool!/Hello by Mangeshig Pawis-Steckley (translated by Mary Ann Corbiere)

share a story that reflects the experiences of Indigenous Peoples. On each page, is an Indigenous illustration of the animals that Indigenous Peoples would know and respect. Have your child learn the names of the animals and count the number of animals as they hear the story reread to them. Find the word hello in the English text and try to find the word in the Indigenous language. You will see that word repeated on each page as well as on the cover.

A Northern Alphabet by Ted Harrison

A is for Arctic, B for Bering Sea, C for Clyde River – and Z for Zangeza Bay – all to be explored above the 60th parallel. If you google the title, you can find a U-tube reading of this book. The author suggests finding other pictures on the page starting with the alphabet letter being shown and having you add what you think will happen next for each picture.

Blankie by Ben Clanton

A big, yellow blankie is one of Narwhal's favorite things; not only because it keeps Narwhal warm and cozy, but also because it's not just a blankie. Narwhal can fold it into a hat, wear it as a cape (or a dress!) and even use it for a picnic with a best bud, like Jelly! This charming board book celebrates the power of imagination and reusability.

Canadian Animals in Colours by Geraldo Valerio

Each spread features one of 10 different colours along with a Canadian animal and also features a lively descriptive phrase full of wordplay, alliteration, and rhyme. From the familiar black bears breakfasting in a bed of berries, to the more exotic purple sea stars stretching and pink prawns pirouetting, young readers will love discovering wildlife from a mix of environments including land, sea, and sky.

Anne's Colors by Kelly Hill

will take you through scenes of the Anne of Green Gables story/ movie. Although there is one thing written as that colour, have your child find other objects that colour and name the objects.

ABC of Canada by Kim Bellefontaine

shows you and your child how to follow the alphabet on a colourful tour across Canada, from A to Z. On their journey, they'll visit Canadian landmarks, including Jasper National Park and Peggy's Cove. Remind your child of any places they may have visited already. They'll also meet friendly characters enjoying Canadian pastimes, such as riding in the Calgary Stampede, playing hockey and watching the Northern Lights. Vivid illustrations and simple language guarantee that even the youngest traveler will enjoy this trip!

Good Night Gorilla by Peggy Rathmann

Help your child name all the animals in the zoo as the zookeeper says good night to each animal before he heads home. What is the little gorilla going to do with the keys? How does the zookeeper's wife know there's something wrong? How does she solve the problem? What does the gorilla do to trick the zookeeper's wife?

Llama Llama Red Pajama by Anna Dewdney

Talk about bedtime routines and how your child feels at bedtime. What do they like the most about bedtime? What don't they like about bedtime? Enjoy the rhyming words with your child.

Skinnamarink

is a favourite song that's fun to sing along to and use all the hand signals.

West Coast Wild ABC's by Deborah Hodge

Bears amble, cougars prowl and eagles nest in this beautiful nature alphabet book celebrating the Pacific west coast. Babies and toddlers will delight in the gorgeous watercolor illustrations and fascinating creatures that inhabit the ancient rainforest, rugged beach and majestic Pacific Ocean. Large upper and lowercase alphabet letters on each page encourage letter recognition.

Busy Busy Birds by Geraldo Valerio

What a great way to introduce the variety of flying birds we have around us. Have your child notice the size of each bird. Encourage them to look out the windows to see some of the smaller birds. Look for hummingbirds in the summer. If near a pond, look for the water birds and ducks. Have your child point out the colours of the feathers on the birds.

Where's Baby? by Anne Hunter

Papa Fox is looking for Baby Fox, who is just out of his sight, but not ours. Papa uses directional words, like in, over, under, up, around, and behind to explain their meaning. Have your child point out the baby in each picture and help them use directional words to explain where baby is hiding. Help your child to identify the animals that are not the baby. (Owl, skunk, bear, mouse, fish, and bull). Play a game of hide and seek with your child. When looking for your child, make use of these directional words.