



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

Before Reading with Your Child:

Snuggling together to read a book builds a child's language and learning. Children in their first year can enjoy books read by parents. They are attracted by your closeness as you read, by the bright colours on the page, and the special sounds they are hearing as you read.

Below are some guidelines of some of the books offered to your child to help you with ideas on what you do when rereading a book with your child.

Same Same by Marthe Jocelyn

A delightfully simple book finding common characteristics in different creatures and objects. Same Same is a clever introduction to similarities. Name all the objects on the page after you read the text. Reinforce the concept of the text by saying e.g. the apple is round, the world is round, the tambourine is round. Note that one of those objects will be repeated on the next page as it fits into a new category e.g., the tambourine makes music, the guitar makes music, the bird makes music. Show your child how a tambourine makes a sound and how a guitar makes a sound. Listen in the mornings to hear birds singing and show the picture of them making music. With any of the concepts, when you see them in real life, bring it up again, e.g., Seeing a dog, say it has four legs. Talk about the size of things around the house - which ones are very big and which ones are little.

Sometimes We Think You Are a Monkey by Johanna Skibsrud and Sarah Blacker

explores all the wonderful actions of a baby and then compares those actions to those of an animal. As you read and reread this book, point out the animals and the sounds they might make. Your child will look for your sounds as the book is read many times. Mimic the action of the baby the makes you think the baby is like an animal. As your child gets older, they can begin to mimic those actions and name the animals and make their sounds, if you have done this frequently with your child and had fun doing it.

Anne's Numbers by Kelly Hill

Walk along with Anne as she goes on a nature walk, counting trees, flowers, clouds and friends! Point to the number as you say it and then count the items. Talk to your child about what Ann is doing in each picture. Have your child find Anne in each picture. Name each of the items on a page as you explain what Anne is doing.

Llama Llama Hide & Seek by Anna Dewdney

Children will enjoy trying to find Llama Llama's stuffed llama. Have children look for clues. Have children pick out the rhyming words. Talk to your child about hiding spots in the room you're in. Children love playing hide and go seek.

Who Says Quack by Grosset and Dunlap

Who says quack? Not a hen, or a pig, or a cow—or a host of other noisy animals. They cluck, oink, moo, and more—and children can guess the sound each one makes as they turn the pages of this photographic book.

Look at the Animals by Peter Linenthal

Birds sing, zebras run, and whales spout in this delightful follow-up to Look Look!. Bold, black-and-white illustrations offer the clean shapes and strong contrasts best suited to young babies' developing minds. The warm, simple text makes this a perfect first book for sharing with a little one who's just beginning to look and learn.

My Feet Go by Ammi-Joan Paquette

Have your child remove their shoes and socks and talk about the parts of their feet. Point to the left foot and then the right foot. From the first page, point out the parts of the foot: sole, heel, toe. Have your child copy all the actions: wiggle, bounce, tiptoe, creep, pounce. Point out the actions of each child on the playground. Have them compare their feet with yours and talk about the differences.

Sleep Tight, Polar Bear (Little Loves) by Sabrina Gibson

These adorable books follow a group of fuzzy polar families as parents guide their babies through daily arctic life, from waking up in the morning to saying good night. In Sleep Tight, Polar Bear, readers will see seal pups dozing while narwhals count fish instead of sheep as they drift off to sleep.

Pudgy Pat A Cake by Grosset and Dunlap

offers popular rhymes, games, and finger plays (like Pat-a-cake... The teensie-weensie spider... I'm a little teapot). Even very young children can sing and play along as they turn each page.

Upsy-Daisy-Baby by Susan Hughes

Around the world, little ones are carried in many different ways: in slings, on shoulders, in backpacks, on hips, in baskets, and in loving arms. Upsy Daisy, Baby! depicts ten places around the world, from Afghanistan to northern Canada, Peru to West Africa. In each place, a mom, dad, grandparent, aunt, uncle, cousin, or sibling lovingly carries a baby. With various family configurations and settings ranging from a busy outdoor market to a high-rise apartment kitchen, the book wholeheartedly celebrates diversity. Gorgeous cut-paper collage art adds warmth, brightness and brings the lyrical text to life. Repetition of the phrase "Upsy-daisy" on each spread lends familiarity and reminds readers that love for a little one is a universal feeling.