

# Reading Matters

## Stories for Jane: Celebrating Books for Infants and Toddlers by Jean Dugan

We live at a distance, but whenever I see Facebook photos of my nephew reading to his seven-month-old daughter Jane, my heart melts. I can see her reaching for the pictures, her eyes wide as she snuggles with her dad or dances with the rhythm. They read together every day, and Jane has already chosen some favorite titles. Jack and Haley are wonderful young parents who are raising a little girl who is delighting in books right off the bat.

Board books are a perfect introduction to a child's first library — they can be chewed, dropped, and drooled on; they last forever and the best of them have bright and fantastic illustrations. Here are some new board books that open up the natural world for the littlest kids.

**Look! Birds!** and **Look! Flowers!**, both by Stephanie Calmenson, portray familiar birds and flowers (as well as some not found in the backyard) along with a short lilting rhyme.



**Look! Birds!** and **Look! Flowers!**

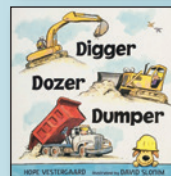
by Stephanie Calmenson, illustrated by Puy Pinillos (Little Bee Books, 2016) Ages 1–4

**Some Bugs** by Angela DiTerlizzi is a “Where’s Waldo” for little entomologists. Kids will love finding the tiniest and most camouflaged insects — and there is an illustrated glossary in the back of the book.



**Some Bugs** by Angela DeTerlizzi, illustrated by Brendan Wenzel (Little Simon, 2014) Ages 1–4

**Digger, Dozer, Dumper** is filled with an assortment of the trucks and road machines that are endlessly appealing, with a short bouncy poem for each.



**Digger, Dozer, Dumper** by Hope Vestergaard, illustrated by David Slonim (Candlewick Press, 2016) Ages 1–4

And be sure to keep your ears open for sounds of all kinds when you walk around town with your toddler. **The Sounds Around Town** can be your guide.



**The Sounds Around Town** by Maria Carluccio (Barefoot Books, 2016) Ages 1–4

Two tiny toddlers arrive at the beach for a day with their moms. A series of toddler-sized crises ensues — sunglasses fall in the sand, a sippy cup gets dropped, a seagull lands on the castle. And **Uh-Oh!** What's that in the bottom of the bucket? Don't get pinched! A wave comes to end the adventure, but it's been an exciting day at the beach for a couple of two-year-olds. Little kids will love to join in the repeating chorus of “uh-ohs.”



**Uh-Oh!** by Shutta Crum, illustrated by Patrice Barton (Alfred A. Knopf, 2015) Ages 1–3

Jean Dugan, a long-time friend of *Exchange*, has been connecting kids with books for over 40 years. She helped establish a library program in the elementary schools of Gloucester, Massachusetts, and later brought her love of children's literature to the public library there. This is one more opportunity for her to share the best new books with children and those who care about them.

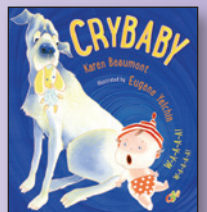


**Playtime?** is also a story told with few words. It's time for bed, but not for gorillas. “Bedtime,” says the boy. “Playtime,” says the gorilla. It seems like nothing will get that gorilla to sleep, and things go back and forth and escalate until a rambunctious ball game wears the gorilla out. Or does it? This is another good read-aloud that kids will certainly identify with.



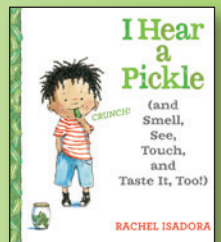
**Playtime?** by Jeff Mack (Philomel Books, 2016) Ages 2–4

“In a quiet house, on a quiet street, a not-so-quiet baby cried “W-A-A-A-A!” What does the baby want? Children will be able to predict — long before Mother and Father, brother and sister, grandparents and assorted neighbors arrive with their useless solutions, funny sounds, and cumulative rhymes — that there's only one simple solution that will make **Crybaby** happy.



**Crybaby** by Karen Beaumont, illustrated by Eugene Yelchin (Henry Holt and Company, 2015) Ages 1–3

Here's some fun with the five senses. In **I Hear a Pickle (and Smell, See, Touch, and Taste It, Too!)** Rachel Isadora examines the world from a child's experience. Can you hear the crunch of a pickle? Smell and taste the sourness and the spice? Feel how cold it is and see how green it is? In this imaginative and sweetly illustrated book we hear grandma on the phone, smell burnt toast, see the light of the lamp, touch the baby but not the boo-boo, and even taste spinach and discover that we like it after all. It's a perfect introduction to the senses — best served with a pickle!



**I Hear a Pickle (and Smell, See, Touch, and Taste It, Too!)** by Rachel Isadora (Nancy Paulsen Books, 2016) Ages 2–5