

FROM OUR BOOKSHELF TO YOURS

Favorite Read-Alouds from Delaware's Early Childhood Educators

Updated 2026

www.dieec.udel.edu

From Our Bookshelf to Yours: Favorite Read-Alouds from Delaware's Early Childhood Educators

One of the best ways to boost children's early literacy skills is reading aloud, and no one knows which books engage children better than you—Delaware's early childhood educators!

This resource is the result of the Delaware Institute for Excellence in Early Childhood's 2025 "Favorite Read-Aloud" campaign, which aimed to tap into your expertise. We asked which books your children ask for again and again, which titles feature the most vivid illustrations, engaging language, and high-interest topics, and which ones you simply love to share. They're organized here in alphabetical order by title; many are appropriate for a wide range of ages. And the best part? Almost all of these books are available from your local Delaware Library!

A huge thank you to every early childhood education professional who submitted their favorites. We are proud to compile your valuable suggestions into this shared resource for the entire early childhood community, making it easier than ever to find the perfect idea for your next great read-aloud.

Happy reading!

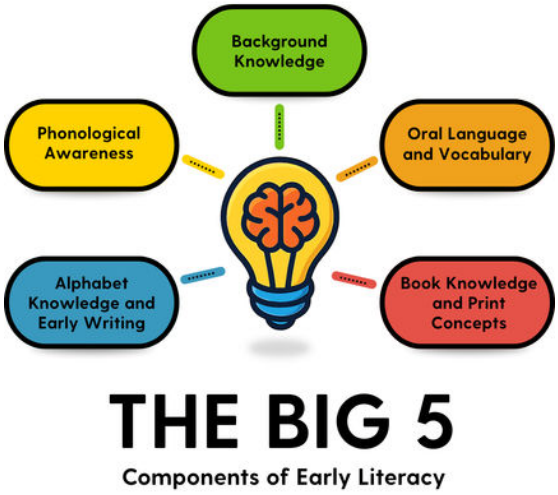


Image credit: iStock

Beyond the Book: How The Big 5 Connect with Your Favorite Read-Alouds

"In order to be ready for school, young children who are dual language learners (DLLs) and those who speak English all require high-quality experiences in each of the Big 5—ALL day, EVERY day, EVERY child. The Big 5 are: Alphabet Knowledge and Early Writing; Background Knowledge; Book Knowledge and Print Concepts; Oral Language and Vocabulary; and Phonological Awareness."

-The National Center on Early Childhood Development, Teaching, and Learning



1. Background Knowledge

Children learn best when they connect new ideas to what they already know about the world—people, places, traditions, and everyday experiences.

***Examples**: Talking about what they see around them, asking questions, sharing family stories.*

2. Oral Language & Vocabulary

As children listen and speak, they build the words and language skills needed to share ideas and understand others.

***Examples**: Having conversations, asking and answering questions, telling stories, learning new words in daily life.*

3. Book Knowledge & Print Concepts

Children discover that print carries meaning, books have a beginning and end, and signs and symbols share information.

***Examples**: Looking at books, knowing where to start reading, talking about books, noticing labels and signs.*

4. Alphabet Knowledge & Early Writing

Young learners begin to recognize letters, connect them to sounds, and try out early writing– from playful scribbles to forming letters.

***Examples**: Naming letters, scribbling, pretending to write, writing their name, seeing adults model good writing.*

5. Phonological Awareness

Before children read letters, they explore the sounds in words by listening and playing with language.

***Examples**: Rhyming, clapping out syllables, blendingor breaking words into parts, making silly word combinations.*

Source: https://headstart.gov/sites/default/files/pdf/pla-big-5-for-all-introduction-eng.pdf
Image reference: https://headstart.gov/sites/default/files/pdf/pla-big-5-for-all-introduction-eng.pdf



Image credit: iStock

A Bad Case of Stripes

By David Shannon

What makes it great? *"It's an amazing fabrication of fictionally being sick."*

Recommended by: Docheline W., Little Blessings Childcare

Appropriate for: Toddlers, Preschool, Pre-K, School-age

Big

By Vashti Harrison

What makes it great? *"A story about a little girl with a big heart and big dreams!"*

Recommended by: Yolanda W., New Garden Early Care & Education Center

Appropriate for: Infants, Toddlers, Preschool, Pre-K, School-age

Big Pumpkin

By Erica Silverman

What makes it great? *"The story is great at asking questions, making predictions, and problem-solving skills. The bat has a plan that the others don't take him seriously until the plan actually works! Then they ALL eat pumpkin pie! This story uses repetition to engage the children to read along with the teacher."*

Recommended by: Jamie D., IRSD Early Learning Center at Howard T. Ennis School

Appropriate for: Preschool, Pre-K, School-age

Big Red Barn

By Margaret Wise Brown

What makes it great? *"Like Goodnight Moon, the gentle rhymes and adorable, detailed illustrations of a day on the farm are great for toddlers and young preschoolers."*

Recommended by: Stephanie T., DIEEC

Appropriate for: Toddlers, Preschool

Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You See?

By Bill Martin Jr. and Eric Carle

What makes it great? *"This book helps the children recognize their colors and animals, and they can read along with the teacher!" "The children are engaged and enjoy making animal sounds." "The rhythmic, repetitive text captures toddlers' attention and invites them to join in - you can see the excitement on their faces as they anticipate and call out each new animal!" "Lots of repetition and rhyming words. Bright colors and great illustrations that makes the book inviting to all children." "helps children aged 2 to 3 enrich their vocabulary; thanks to a repetitive, open-ended question, they also develop their communication skills." "We enjoy reading it together and calling out names of animals and colors, predicting what comes next."*

Recommended by: Sharon M., Happyland Childcare; Georgina R., FCC Educator; Kristy S., DIEEC, Tina M., DIEEC; Aissatou S., Delaware Technical Community College CDC-Stanton; Aparna B., C.A.C.C. Montessori School

Appropriate for: Toddlers, Preschool, Pre-K

Chicka Chicka Boom Boom

By Bill Martin Jr. and John Archambault

What makes it great? *"Chicka Chicka Boom Boom is a fun book that introduces the alphabet to kids. I love having the kids yell chicka chicka BOOM BOOM! We sing the ABCs when we get to the end of the book. The kids ask for it over and over again!" "Children enjoy the story and are interested in finding out what happens to the letters after they fall off the coconut tree." "I love using this book at the beginning of the year to help assess students' knowledge of letter names and sounds. In addition, the repetition and rhyming makes it easy and fun for students to join in!" "The letters are very helpful to each other when there are scrapes and bruises after the tree bends because the letters are too heavy."*

Recommended by: Sylena L., FCC Educator; Rochelle K., FCC Educator; Samantha W., FCC Educator; Whitney Jl, FCC educator; Amanda C., Little Vikings; Kristy S., DIEEC; Mattie Rena D., FCC educator; Melissa S., DIEEC

Appropriate for: Toddlers, Preschool, Pre-K

Chrysanthemum

By Kevin Henkes

What makes it great? *"A playful book that makes counting fun, teaches early math skills, and keeps us singing!"*

Recommended by: Amy S., Appoquinimink Preschool Center

Appropriate for: Pre-K, School-Age

Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus

By Mo Willems

What makes it great? *"It's so fun and interactive!"*

Recommended by: Sheri M., Kids Cottage - Rehoboth

Appropriate for: Toddlers, Preschool, Pre-K

Dragons Love Tacos

By Adam Rubin

What makes it great? *"This book offers a fun and goofy take on two things kids love, food and dragons! It is highly engaging for PreK students. It will offer a story that starts conversations, and they will carry the message home."*

Recommended by: Jessica K., Indian River Early Learning Center

Appropriate for: Pre-K

Ellie's Colorful Day

By Gregory Elliotte

What makes it great? *"This book is a fun way to help children identify colors. This book also shows children they can learn from the everyday environment around them."*

Recommended by: Gregory E., Asbury Early Learning Center

Appropriate for: Toddlers, Preschool, Pre-K

Farmyard Beat

By Lindsey Craig and Marc Brown

What makes it great? *"So hard to choose just one book, but I thought this one might be less known. Different farm animals waking up in the night from noises on the farm. Love the anticipatory nature of the text - who will wake up next? We love making the sounds together and reading the book over and over until it can be recited by memory. Great opportunities for exploring rhythm and rhyme."*

Recommended by: Emily E., St. Anne's Episcopal School

Appropriate for: Toddlers, Preschool, Pre-K

Giraffes Can't Dance

By Giles Andreae

What makes it great? *"Rhyming and silly words"*

Recommended by: Randi R., La Petite Academy

Appropriate for: Infants, Toddlers, Preschool, Pre-K

Go Away Big Green Monster

By Ed Emberley

What makes it great? *"The children like to point to their eyes, ears, nose, etc and scream go away big green monster!"*

Recommended by: Georgina R., FCC Educator

Appropriate for: Toddlers, Preschool

Goodnight Gorilla!

By Peggy Rathmann

What makes it great? *"This book is wonderful for children because it contains minimal text, encouraging both child and reader to use their imagination and observation skills to notice small details. It also offers opportunities for the reader to add humor, making each reading a unique experience."*

Recommended by: Courtney F., DIEEC

Appropriate for: Infants, Toddlers, Preschool

Hand, Hand, Fingers, Thumb

By Al Perkins

What makes it great? *"Hand, Hand, Fingers, Thumb is a fun rhyming book, and the children find it easy to memorize. When we use our hand movements as we are reading aloud, the children absolutely love it."*

Recommended by: Linda B., FCC Educator

Appropriate for: Toddlers, Preschool, Pre-K

I Love You, Little One

By Nancy Tafuri

What makes it great? *"This was a favorite when my kids were little. I love the illustrations and the connection to nature. It also brought connection for us, with the repetition and reassurance of, "I love you...forever and ever and always.""*

Recommended by: Michelle R., DIEEC

Appropriate for: Infants, Toddlers, Preschool, Pre-K

If I Built a Car

By Chris Van Dusen

What makes it great? *"It encourages preschoolers to think outside the box and get creative. It has great rhyming and some big words sprinkled throughout that are great for additional questions and conversation during or after the story."*

Recommended by: Jessica W., Pike Creek Christian Preschool

Appropriate for: Preschool, Pre-K, School-age

If You Give a Mouse a Cookie

By Laura Numeroff

What makes it great? *"The predictability of what will happen next and the silliness of what the mouse is doing make it easy for children to actively participate and engage with the text in a fun way."*

Recommended by: Alexandra G., IRSD Early Learning Center at Howard T. Ennis School

Appropriate for: Toddlers, Preschool, Pre-K, School-age

In My Heart

By Jo Witek

What makes it great? *"Teaches the children about regulating their emotions."*

Recommended by: Allison P., Learning All Hours

Appropriate for: Toddlers, Preschool, Pre-K

It's a Tiger!

By David LaRochelle

What makes it great? *"The story is exciting without being scary, and children will love shouting "It's a TIGER" with you."*

Recommended by: Stephanie T., DIEEC

Appropriate for: Toddlers, Preschool

Kindness Makes Me Stronger

By Elizabeth Cole

What makes it great? *"This book is a heartwarming story that teaches the value and importance of kindness through simple, relatable examples for young children. The clear language and colorful illustrations keep students engaged, and the scenarios encourage empathy, sharing, and positive behavior. The story opens up great discussions about how small acts, like helping a friend or saying kind words, can make a big difference. After reading the book, I like to encourage students to share a time when someone was kind to them or when they showed kindness to someone else."*

Recommended by: Chantel B., Helping Hands Learning Center; Peace Arousa A. Osayanmwen

Appropriate for: Preschool, Pre-K

La Huerta De Roli

By Gillian Hibbs

What makes it great? *"The book is in English and Spanish, which exposes the children to both languages."*

Recommended by: Leslie Q., FCC Educator

Appropriate for: Preschool, Pre-K, School-age

Leaf Man

By Lois Ehlert

What makes it great? *"I read this book during fall. We talk about the season and how the leaves change. Each page of the book has different animals made from leaves. The kids love trying to figure out what the leaf animal is. After the book the kids choose different size and color leaves to build their own leaf person."*

Recommended by: Pamela C., FCC Educator

Appropriate for: Toddlers, Preschool

Leonardo, the Terrible Monster

By Mo Willems

What makes it great? *"This brings back memories of how much my oldest daughter loved hearing me read this story."*

Recommended by: Lisa S., Bright New Scholars Academy

Appropriate for: Toddlers, Preschool, Pre-K

Llama Llama Red Pajama

By Anna Dewdney

What makes it great? *"This is a favorite read-aloud because it beautifully captures emotions young children relate to, like missing a parent at bedtime. Its catchy rhymes, rhythm, and expressive storyline keep kids engaged while teaching emotional awareness. The dramatic build and comforting ending make it fun for adults to perform and soothing for little ones to hear."*

Recommended by: Tyeasha G., FCC Educator

Appropriate for: Toddlers, Preschool, Pre-K

Lola Plants a Garden

By Anna McQuinn

What makes it great? *"Learning about a garden and the patience it takes to grow one."*

Recommended by: Comesha M., FCC Educator

Appropriate for: Toddlers, Preschool, Pre-K, School-age

Love You Forever

By Robert Munsch

What makes it great? *"It's about the love parents have for their kids...no matter what."*

Recommended by: Tiffany C., Cradles to Crayons and Beyond Early Learning Center

Appropriate for: Infants, Toddlers, Preschool, Pre-K

Mama Do You Love Me?

By Barbara Joosse

What makes it great? *"This book is an excellent choice for read-aloud time because of its gentle rhythm, repetitive phrasing, and emotional depth, which keep children engaged while offering important lessons about love, security, and cultural appreciation. The illustrations are rich and calming, sparking curiosity about different ways of life and encouraging meaningful conversations about feelings and family. It's a perfect story for helping children understand that even when they make mistakes or test boundaries, a parent's love remains constant."*

Recommended by: Wendy B., Greater Dover Boys and Girls Club

Appropriate for: Infants, Toddlers, Preschool, Pre-K

Millie Fleur's Poison Garden

By Christy Mandin

What makes it great? *"This is a children's book about the weird and wonderful, and it teaches our students that it's okay to be different, and you should love and embrace the weird and wonderful."*

Recommended by: Claire B., Las Americas ASPIRA Academy

Appropriate for: School-age

No Jumping on the Bed

By Ted Arnold

What makes it great? *"Walter cannot resist the temptation of jumping on his bed. Little children love the adventure. Good for a fun bedtime story."*

Recommended by: Carmen W., FCC Educator

Appropriate for: Toddlers, Preschool, Pre-K, School-age

No, David!

By David Shannon

What makes it great? *"No, David! is a fun book for our children to engage with."*

Recommended by: Tessa A., Great New Beginnings of Pencader

Appropriate for: Infants, Toddlers, Preschool, Pre-K

One Duck Stuck

By Phyllis Root

What makes it great? *"One Duck Stuck is about a mama duck and her babies crossing a marsh. It is very catchy and children begin to repeat the chorus after just one reading."*

Recommended by: Erin N., YMCA of Delaware/Bear Branch

Appropriate for: Infants, Toddlers, Preschool, Pre-K

Pete the Cat and His Four Groovy Buttons

By Eric Litwin

What makes it great? *"This book has a song associated with it, which makes it engaging, and it helps with the concept of subtraction." "The repetition allows students to read along. While reading the book, students are engaged in identifying colors and counting with their fingers."*

Recommended by: Taylor B., Rise & Shine Learning Center; Ashley S., FCC Educator, Tamara Trayor of Holy Cross School Early Learning Center

Appropriate for: Toddlers, Preschool, Pre-K

Pete the Cat: I Love My White Shoes

By Eric Litwin

What makes it great? *"The repetition, catchy words, the focus on colors and being okay with things getting a little messy. It's such a great book to read, enjoy and sing along to." "This repetition helps young children predict what comes next, build early reading confidence, and strengthen language patterns." "All of the kids love this book. They are now able to take the book and read it to each other." "We did a week-long summer activity years ago with this book. The children came to childcare wearing their favorite color shoes of any kind and we talked about why they liked them. Then we colored a picture of a tennis shoe like the one from the book and decorated it with different small pieces and materials like string, wrinkled paper, stars, paper pictures, foil, rhinestones (older children only), and cut colored straw pieces. The children created their own favorite shoe, and for the next few days, the children took turns telling the class about the shoe they created. Children have such great imaginations!!!!"*

Recommended by: Sarah M., Colonial Early Education Program; Madison H., Indian River Early Education Center; Shakira W., Next Generation Early Learning Center; Eugenia M., Jeans Love-N-Care Childcare

Appropriate for: Toddlers, Preschool, Pre-K

Pete the Cat's Cool New Ride

By Kimberly & James Dean

What makes it great? *"This is a good book for math concepts because you have to count and add each time he picks up one of his friends for a ride in his new car."*

Recommended by: Marlette L., FCC Educator

Appropriate for: Toddlers, Preschool, Pre-K

Piggy Pie!

By Margie Palatini

What makes it great? *"The pictures are bright and colorful. The storey has repetitive lines the children can repeat during the reading. The story also lends itself to making predictions about what animals can be found on a farm."*

Recommended by: Amy M., IRSD Early Learning Center at Howard T. Ennis School

Appropriate for: Pre-K, School-age

Room On The Broom

By Julia Donaldson

What makes it great? *"Our favorite read-aloud book right now is Room on the Broom because it's a fun story about making new friends and working together. It's a great choice for preschoolers because it teaches kindness, cooperation, and problem-solving in a way that's easy for young children to understand. The rhyming text keeps them engaged, and the colorful illustrations help build attention and comprehension skills."*

Recommended by: Patrice B., FCC Educator

Appropriate for: Toddlers, Preschool, Pre-K

Rose's Garden

By Peter H. Reynolds

What makes it great? *"Rose's Garden by Peter H. Reynolds is a story of adventure in nature. After traveling, Rose is ready to put down her roots and decides she will make this corner in a busy city beautiful once again. This is my goal, to increase green spaces for ALL. children to have access to nature. This is a story of resilience and patience as Rose has to wait and trust that her garden will grow. After we read this story, we have a tea party/taste test from herbs we forage together. We also design our own gardens thinking about what we would want them to include. Reynolds inspires with each book he writes and illustrates, but this one is extra special to me!"*

Recommended by: Katie P., University of Delaware Lab Preschool

Appropriate for: Pre-K, School-age

Sheep in a Jeep

By Nancy Shaw

What makes it great? *"Rhyming book that is full of humorous mishaps, including splashes in mud and crashes into obstacles. The story is told in catchy rhymes, making it engaging for young readers and perfect for read-aloud sessions."*

Recommended by: Joan D., Early Life Learning LLC

Appropriate for: Infants, Toddlers, Preschool, Pre-K, School-age

Silly Sally

By Audrey Wood

What makes it great? *"The rhyming words, repetitive phrases, and unexpected characters make this an engaging read-aloud with many learning opportunities."*

Recommended by: Rebecca J., DIEEC

Appropriate for: Toddlers, Preschool, Pre-K

Sleepy Sheepy

By Lucy Ruth Cummins

What makes it great? *"It's just a cute little rhyming book about how Sleepy Sheepie is not tired, and they try all kinds of things to get him to go to sleep."*

Recommended by: Ashley A., Kids Cottage

Appropriate for: Preschool, Pre-K

Snip Snap, What's That?

By Mara Bergman

What makes it great? *"The kids love to participate and it makes them laugh."*

Recommended by: Heather S., The Learning Center Preschool in Ocean View

Appropriate for: Toddlers, Preschool, Pre-K

Tacky the Penguin

By Helen Lester

What makes it great? *"This story shows children that not only is being different ok, sometimes it is helpful. Lots of easy to remember passages for repetitive reading to allow for interactions with children."*

Recommended by: Dan R., DIEEC

Appropriate for: Pre-K, School-age

The Bad Seed

By Jory John

What makes it great? *"The Bad Seed Game Show helps students explore important SEL themes such as behavior choices, kindness, self-control, and the power of making positive changes. Students reflect on how even a "bad seed" can learn and grow through better choices and empathy."*

Recommended by: Deborah A., Little Vikings @ Sussex Consortium

Appropriate for: Pre-K

The Book With No Pictures

By BJ Novak

What makes it great? *"This book has no pictures! At first, kids get confused as to why we love reading it, but once it's read once, they ask for it again and again. This book provides endless laughs and giggles for everyone."*

Recommended by: Kelly H., St. Mark's Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten

Appropriate for: Pre-K, School-age

The Cat in the Hat

By Dr. Seuss

What makes it great? *"Rhyming text and silly pictures"*

Recommended by: Anna T., Happy Place Day Care

Appropriate for: Preschool, Pre-K

The Color Monster: A Story About Emotions

By Anna Llenas

What makes it great? *"A fun way to talk about feelings"*

Recommended by: Amanda B., Beach Babies Child Care

Appropriate for: Toddlers, Preschool, Pre-K

The Day the Crayons Quit

By Drew Daywalt

What makes it great? *"I like this book because it is enjoyable for most age groups from the toddlers to our school age students." "Themes of resolving conflicts, balancing self interest and obligations."*

Recommended by: Nekia Y., Rainbow Xpress Learning Academy; Shannon M., A.S. Academy of Learning

Appropriate for: Toddlers, Preschool, Pre-K, School-age

The Gingerbread Boy

By Harriet Ziefert

What makes it great? *"Seeing the children touch their fingers and toes, counting, and using their thinking"*

Recommended by: Mardella W., FCC Educator

Appropriate for: Preschool, Pre-K, School-age

The Gruffalo

By Julia Donaldson

What makes it great? *The Gruffalo is a favorite for me to read to my little learners because it takes place in the woods and connects storytelling with nature. The animal characters, rhyming language, and clever mouse inspire imagination, problem-solving, and outdoor exploration, making it perfect for a nature-based classroom. After reading, my little learners can:*

- *Build Gruffalo dens or homes for the animals using sticks and leaves*
- *Create muddy Gruffalo footprints*
- *Act out the story by creating a path in our outdoor classroom*
- *Pretend to be one of the characters in the story on one of our outdoor stages*

Recommended by: Stacy M., FCC Educator

Appropriate for: Preschool, Pre-K

The Leaf Thief

By Alice Hemming

What makes it great? *"Perfect for the fall season"*

Recommended by: Jessica B., FCC Educator

Appropriate for: Toddlers, Preschool, Pre-K, School-age

The Little House

By Virginia Lee Burton

What makes it great? *"This was my favorite book as a little girl. It tells the story of a small, happy house in the countryside that gradually becomes surrounded by a bustling city. Over time, the Little House feels lonely and forgotten. My favorite part is the ending of the story, when she is moved back to the peaceful countryside where she belongs."*

Recommended by: Kirsten S., FCC Educator

Appropriate for: Preschool, Pre-K, School-age

The Little Old Lady Who Wasn't Afraid of Anything

By Linda Williams

What makes it great? *"This book is a silly book that includes repetition and action words that are easy for kids to act out as we read. It encourages talking about bravery when faced with something scary."*

Recommended by: Bethany T., Little Vikings @ Sussex Consortium

Appropriate for: Preschool, Pre-K, School-age

The Monster at the End of This Book

By Jon Stone

What makes it great? *"This book is a favorite read-aloud because it captures children's attention through humor, suspense, and direct interaction with the reader. The character Grover's playful fear of reaching the end of the book keeps students laughing and engaged as they predict what will happen next. It encourages participation as they turn the pages despite Grover's pleas, making it an interactive and confidence-building reading experience. The repetitive and expressive language also helps support early literacy, emotional regulation, and comprehension skills while keeping the tone light and fun."*

Recommended by: Gabrielle B., IRSD Early Learning Center at Howard T. Ennis School

Appropriate for: Preschool

The One Day House

By Julia Durango

What makes it great? *"The One Day House by Julia Durango: A touching story about kindness and community, with the repeated phrase, "One day..." that children love to echo. After reading, invite students to share their own "one day" dreams of helping others."*

Recommended by: Alisa S., FCC Educator

Appropriate for: Preschool, Pre-K, School-age

The Pigeon Has to Go to School!

By Mo Willems

What makes it great? *"The Pigeon Has to Go to School! is the perfect read-aloud because it's funny, interactive, emotionally rich, and easy to connect with. It helps children laugh through their worries and see that school can be a great adventure, just like the Pigeon learns in the end."*

Recommended by: Antwain F., West End Neighborhood House

Appropriate for: Pre-K, School-age

The Pout-Pout Fish

By Deborah Diesen

What makes it great? *"This story is about seeing the good in life, remembering to smile instead of frowning, and how much better it makes you feel!"*

Recommended by: Tecola G., Lighthouse on the Shore Learning Center

Appropriate for: Toddlers, Preschool

The Three Little Pigs

By Patricia Seibret

What makes it great? *"The book teaches children courage and to stand up to bullies. It also demonstrates teamwork when the pigs worked together to build a house to keep the wolf out."*

Recommended by: Janisha H., Great New Beginnings of Newark

Appropriate for: Preschool, Pre-K, School-age

The Very Hungry Caterpillar

By Eric Carle

What makes it great? *"You can talk about the life cycle of a butterfly. It also allows the children to identify their colors, numbers, and food items. After reading the book, the children are allowed to create their own hungry caterpillar stories." "This book builds literacy skills, teaches days of the week & sequencing, and introduces counting and food vocabulary." "It is engaging and it is brightly illustrated." "The children like to say what the caterpillar eats."*

Recommended by: Natalia T., YMCA of Delaware/Central Branch; Jennifer C., Precious Moments Education and Community Center; Christina Meko, St. Mary's Preschool; Sandra W., Mrs Sandy's Daycare

Appropriate for: Infants, Toddlers, Preschool, Pre-K

The Way I Feel

By Janan Cain

What makes it great? *"It is a great way to show emotions/expressions. I love to see the silly faces when I read the silly page, and the children thinking when they don't understand an emotion like jealousy."*

Recommended by: Cindy J., Room to Bloom

Appropriate for: Toddlers, Preschool, Pre-K

The Wonderful Things You Will Be

By Emily Winfield Martin

What makes it great? *"The poem expresses how a parent wonders about their child's future. Will they be brave, friendly, caring, creative...what they will do? The final answer is: No matter what they grow up to be, they will always be loved."*

Recommended by: Tammy B., Corporate Kids Learning Center

Appropriate for: Infants, Toddlers, Preschool

The Wonky Donkey

By Craig Smith

What makes it great? *"A repetitive, rhyming, silly, fun read-aloud for ages 3-6. Provides clues that facilitate engaging discussions and predictions. Children will want you to read it over and over!"*

Recommended by: Meg M., DIEEC

Appropriate for: Preschool, Pre-K, School-age

Today I Feel Silly & Other Moods That Make My Day

By Jamie Lee Curtis

What makes it great? *"This story explores emotions and feelings. The book has colorful illustrations and gives children permission to feel both positive and negative emotions. There is an emotion wheel at the end so they can choose their own emotion."*

Recommended by: Alison K., DIEEC

Appropriate for: Preschool, Pre-K, School-age

Where the Wild Things Are

By Maurice Sendak

What makes it great? *"There are lots of ways to engage children in repetitive phrases so they can help read the book. It also engages large motor skills as they can act out many sections of the book." "Where the Wild Things Are is a great book for children to talk about big feelings like anger and frustration."*

Recommended by: Jamie S., Educational Enrichment Center DE, LLC; Stacey A., Indian River Early Learning Center

Appropriate for: Toddlers, Preschool, Pre-K, School-age

You Can Be a Good Friend (No Matter What!)

By Taraji P. Henson

What makes it great? *"We have been talking about kindness and compassion for other people. This book reinforces that. If you see someone being mean, let someone know. Don't ignore someone who cries for help just because they are not your friend. We are all human and need to respect each other, friends or not."*

Recommended by: Tiffani B., FCC Educator

Appropriate for: Preschool, Pre-K, School-age