Good Books for Infants and Toddlers

The list below represents only a small fraction of the enormous number of good books published for very young children. It includes classics first published in the last century up through those published in 2007. The books come mostly from Australia, the United Kingdom, and the United States, and all are readily available from major booksellers. Many of the books are available in hardback, paperback, and as board books. Some authors have several books listed, but they may well have further publications suitable for very young readers that could be sourced through a bookseller or library.

Many recommended children’s book lists are available online. In particular, nonprofit groups that are invested in young children’s learning and development often make such lists available to help teachers and families select materials. Reading Rockets (http://www.readingrockets.org/), Book’Em (http://www.bookem-kids.org/), and Books for Kids (http://www.booksforkidsonfoundation.org) offer some excellent resources for sharing books with children.

The books in this list range from very simple one-word concept books to quite complex storybooks. Some books that might be thought to be appropriate for older children have been included, if families and caregivers have found through experience that some younger children enjoy them, too.

Ahlberg, Janet, & Allan Ahlberg. *Peepo!*
Allen, Pamela. *Mr. McGee series*
  *My first 1, 2, 3*
Baby Love series. *I like my soft teddy bear*
  *I can smile at you*
  *I feel soft and smooth*
Berenstain, Stan, & Jan Berenstain. *Berenstain Bears and the spooky old tree*
Blackstone, Stella. *Bear in a square*
Bodsworth, Nan. *A nice walk in the jungle*
Bowie, C.W. *Busy toes*
  *Busy fingers*
Bradman, Tony, & Clive Scruton. *A goodnight kind of feeling*
Brown, Margaret Wise. *Goodnight moon*
  *The noisy book*
  *The runaway bunny*
Bunting, Eve. *Flower garden*
Burke, Tina. *Sophie’s big bed*
Burningham, John. Mr. Gumpy's motor car
   Mr. Gumpy's outing

Butler, John. Can you cuddle like a koala?
   Hush, little ones
   While you were sleeping
   Who says woof?

Campbell, Rod. Dear zoo
   Noisy farm

Carle, Eric. Does a kangaroo have a mother, too?
   From head to toe
   My Very First series
   The grouchy ladybug
   The very hungry caterpillar
   The very lonely firefly

Cauley, Lorinda Bryan. Clap your hands

Chocolate, Deborah Newton. On the day I was born

Cooke, Trish. Full, full, full of love

Cowell, Cresida. What shall we do with the boo-hoo baby?

Cowen-Fletcher, Jane. Mama zooms

Dodd, Lynley. Hairy MacLary series

Eck, Kristin. Colores en mi casa (Colors in my house)
   Opuestos en mi casa (Opposites in my house)

Ehler, Lois. Color farm

Falconer, Ian. Olivia's opposites

Falwell, Cathryn. Feast for 10

Fox, Mem. Hattie and the fox
   Possum magic
   Time for bed
   Whoever you are

Fox, Mem, & Judy Horacek. Where is the green sheep?

Fuge, Charles. My dad!

Gleeson, Libby. Cuddle time

Graham, Bob. Dimity Dumpty: The story of Humphry's little sister

Gravett, Emily. Monkey and me

Gray, Kes. My mum goes to work

Hatkoff, Isabella, Craig Hatkoff, & Paula Kahumbu. Owen and Mzee: The true story
   of a remarkable friendship

Hayes, Sarah. Eat up, Gemma

Hest, Amy. Kiss good night
Hill, Eric. Spot series
Hindley, Judy. The big red bus
Hoban, Russell. Frances series
Hoban, Tana. Black on white
White on black
Holub, Joan. My first book of sign language
Hutchins, Pat. Changes, changes
Tidy Titch
Inkpen, Mick. Is it bedtime Wibbly Pig?
Joosse, Barbara. Mama, do you love me?
Katz, Karen. Counting kisses
Toes, ears, & nose!
Where is baby's belly button?
Keats, Ezra Jack. The snowy day
Kubler, Annie. Sign and sing along: Twinkle, twinkle, little star
Lehman, Barbara. The red book [wordless picture book]
Lewis, Anthony. Meal time
Lewis, Kevin. Chugga chugga choo choo
Lionni, Leo. Let's play
Lodge, Jo. My little case of jungle animals
Lofts, Pamela. Dunbi the owl
How the birds got their colours
How the kangaroos got their tails
Long, Sylvia. Hush little baby
Mackintosh, David. Same as me
Martin, Bill, Jr. Brown bear, brown bear, what do you see?
Chicka chicka boom boom
Panda bear, panda bear, what do you see?
Polar bear, polar bear, what do you hear?
Masurel, Claire. Two homes
McCloskey, Robert. Blueberries for Sal
Make way for ducklings
McCully, Emily Arnold. Picnic
McDonnell, Flora. Splash!
Merberg, Julie, & Suzanne Rober. A magical day with Matisse
A picnic with Monet
Dancing with Degas
Sharing with Renoir
Miller, Virginia. *Eat your dinner!*
    Get into bed! A story about going to sleep
    On your potty!

Morris, Ann. *Bread, bread, bread*

Munsch, Robert. *Love you forever*

Niland, Deborah. *Let's play!*
    When I was a baby

Norling, Beth. *Little brothers are . . .
    Little sisters are . . .*

Oborne, Martine. *One gorgeous baby*

Ormerod, Jan. *Dad's back*
    *Messy baby.*

Oxenbury, Helen. *All fall down*
    *Clap hands*
    *Say goodnight*
    *Shopping*
    *Tickle, tickle*

Parr, Todd. *The daddy book*
    *The family book*
    *The mommy book*
    *The peace book*

Penn, Audrey. *The kissing hand*

Pienkowski, Jan. *Colours*

Pinkney, Andrea, & Brian Pinkney. *I smell honey*

Piper, Watty. *The little engine that could*

Pitzer, Marjorie W. *I can, can you?*

Prater, John. *Again!*

Priddy, Roger. *Animals*

Prince, April Jones. *What do wheels do all day?*

Rabe, Berniece. *Where's Chimpy?*

Rathmann, Peggy. *Good night, gorilla*

Rotner, Shelley. *Lots of feelings*

Rowe, Jeanette. *Whose house?*
    *Whose tail?*
    *Whose teeth?*

Scott, Ann Herbert. *On mother's lap*

Sendak, Maurice. *Where the wild things are*

Seuss, Dr. *The cat in the hat*

*From Lullabies to Literature*
Sheehan, Peter. *Plane, train, truck and trolley*
Sieveking, Anthea. *What color?*
Slobodkina, Esphyr. *Caps for sale*
Smee, Nicola. *Sleepyhead*
Stiegemeyer, Julie. *Cheep! Cheep!*
Swain, Gwyneth. *Bedtime*
  *Carrying*
  *Celebrating*
  *Eating*
  *Wash up*
Tildes, Phyllis Limbacher. *Baby animals black and white*
Venus, Pamela. *Let's feed the ducks*
  *Let's go to bed*
  *Let's have fun*
Waddell, Martin. *Owl babies*
Walton, Rick, & Paige Miglio. *So many bunnies: A bedtime ABC and counting book*
Wild, Margaret. *Chatterbox*
  *Kiss kiss!*
  *Little Humpty*
  *Seven more sleeps*
  *The little crooked house*
Wilkes, Angela. *My first word book*
Willems, Mo. *Knuffle bunny: A cautionary tale*
Williams, Sue. *I went walking*
Williams, Vera B. *"More more more," said the baby*
  *Music, music for everyone*
Wood, Audrey. *The napping house*
  *Silly Sally*
Yolen, Jane. *Off we go!*
Zelinsky, Paul O. *Knick-knack Paddywhack*
  *The wheels on the bus*
Ziefert, Harriet. *Beach party!*
Zolotow, Charlotte. *William's doll*