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## Books for the Youngest Readers

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# BOOKS FOR THE YOUNGEST READERS

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Parents are advised to read to their children frequently and to begin when the children are quite young. The following books are some recent offerings that are especially appropriate for sharing with pre-school readers.

Ahlberg, Janet and Allan. Peek-a-Boo! Viking, 1981. \$10.95.

A brief rhymed text gives the reader a baby's view of the world in a book that is perfect for the lap audience. From breakfast until bedtime, the baby is in the backyard, visits the park, has supper and finally a bath. At each place, the reader is invited to "Peek-a-Boo!" through a die-cut hole in the page and see what there is to see. The illustrations are loaded with details, giving a small child many things to identify. All babies know how to play "Peek-a-Boo," and this book adds another dimension to a familiar game.

Hoban, Tana. A, B, See! Greenwillow, 1982. \$8.00.

Known for her concept books illustrated with photographs, Hoban has created a striking alphabet book. Black and white photgrams of familiar objects illustrate each letter of the alphabet. There are several objects representing each letter for young children to identify. The entire alphabet is printed at the bottom of each page with the featured letter several sizes larger than the rest. Like most alphabet books, its value in helping to teach letter sounds is somewhat limited, in that some of the objects begin with consonant blends (e.g. crab, glasses) rather than a single consonant sound. The book is well designed, and the total effect is stunning.

Hutchins, Pat. 1 Hunter. Greenwillow, 1982. \$9.00.

A humorous safari and some hidden pictures highlight this simple counting book for young readers. A rather determined hunter stalks his prey in the jungle, totally unaware that he is being watched by two elephants, three giraffes, four ostriches, and so on. The brightly colored illustrations offer some opportunities for visual discrimination as the reader uses pictorial clues, such as elephant legs next to tree trunks and stepping stones that are the backs of crocodiles, to predict what animals are next. Young children will enjoy the reaction of the hunter when he realizes that he is being followed.

Kalan, Robert. Jump, Frog, Jump! Il. by Byron Barton. Greenwillow, 1981, \$8.95.

A frog that is trying to catch a fly is the first segment of this house-that-Jack-built-type tale. The frog is in jeopardy at every turn as the text asks the reader, "How did the frog get away?" The answer is always the same, "Jump, frog, jump!" The illustrations are simple and appealing, done in vivid colors. The book is a perfect read-aloud, for all young listeners will surely become involved in the reading themselves by chanting, "Jump, frog, jump!"

Oxenbury, Helen. "Baby Board Books" Wanderer Press, 1981. \$3.50.  
"Very First Books" Dial Press, 1982. \$3.50.

The "Baby Board" series, according to the book covers, was created for "babies from the age of six months." The five titles in the series, Friends, Playing, Dressing, Working and Family, feature a rather cuddly baby as the main character. The baby is depicted interacting with his environment, with one-word descriptions on every other page. In the "Very First Books" series, the same character has grown into an endearing toddler. The five books in this series, Beach Day, Shopping Trip, Mother's Helper, Monkey See Monkey Do, and Good Night Good Morning, show the toddler involved in everyday activities with his parents. The books in both series are small size in format with laminated cardboard pages, which make them durable and washable.

Shannon, George. Dance Away. Il. by Jose Aruego and Ariane Dewey. Greenwillow, 1982. \$9.00.

An irrepressible rabbit who loves to dance is the hero of this purely delightful book. Rabbit's friends grow tired of dancing all the time, but they change their minds when Rabbit's dancing saves them from Fox. Young children will be caught up in the rhythm of Rabbit's dance that is repeated throughout the book, "left two three kick right two three kick left skip right skip turn around." Dance Away is meant to be danced to, and Aruego and Dewey's colorful and humorous illustrations make it even more fun!