Research has shown that the single greatest factor in predicting reading success is whether a child is read to when young. Here are some titles to get you started!

**Books About Me**
- *I Like Me!* by Nancy L. Carlson
- *I Like to Be Little* by Charlotte Zolotow
- *The Mixed-Up Chameleon* by Eric Carle
- *My Five Senses* by Aliki
- *Owen* by Kevin Henkes
- *When I Get Bigger* by Mercer Mayer

**Family Stories**
- Just Me Books by Mercer Mayer
- *Mama Do You Love Me?* by Barbara M. Joosse

**Predictable Books** *(Stories with a pattern using rhyme or rhythm.)*
- *Curious George* by H. A. Rey
- *Each Peach Pear Plum* by Janet and Allan Ahlberg
- *The Gingerbread Boy* by Paul Galdone
- *Gregory the Terrible Eater* by Mitchell Sharmat
- *Goodnight Moon* by Margaret Wise Brown
- *Millions of Cats* by Wanda Gág
- *What's in Fox's Sack?* by Paul Galdone

**Beginning, Middle, and End Concept**
- *Bony-Legs* by Joanna Cole
- *A Camping Spree with Mr. Magee* by Chris Van Dusen
- *Love You Forever* by Robert Munsch
- *Rosie's Walk* by Pat Hutchins
- *The Runaway Bunny* by Margaret Wise Brown

**Color and Counting Books**
- *Fish Eyes: A Book You Can Count On* by Lois Ehlert
- *Frog Counts to Ten* by John Liebler
- *Inch by Inch* by Leo Lionni
- *Planting a Rainbow* by Lois Ehlert
- *Ten Bears in My Bed: A Goodnight Countdown* by Stanley Mack
- *Ten Little Fish* by Audrey Wood
- *26 Letters and 99 Cents* by Tana Hoban

**Caldecott Winners and Honor Books**
- *Color Zoo* by Lois Ehlert
- *Madeline* by Ludwig Bemelmans
- *More, More, More Said the Baby* by Vera B. Williams
- *Officer Buckle and Gloria* by Peggy Rathman
- *Swimmy* by Leo Lionni
- *Tops and Bottoms* by Janet Stevens

**Mother Goose and Nursery Rhymes**
- *My Very First Mother Goose* by Iona Opie and Rosemary Wells
- *Tomie dePaola's Mother Goose* by Tomie dePaola

**Folktales and Fairy Tales**
- *Chicken Little* by Steven Kellogg
- *Cinderella* by Marcia Brown
- *The Hare and the Tortoise* by Brian Wildsmith
- *Henny Penny* by H. Werner Zimmermann
- *The Little Red Hen* by Margot Zemach
- *The Three Bears* by Paul Galdone
- *The Three Billy Goats Gruff* by Peter Christen Asbjornsen
- *Three Little Pigs* by James Marshall
- *The Three Little Pigs* by Rodney Peppé
- *The Ugly Duckling* by Hans Christian Andersen

**Stories in Rhyme**
- *All the Colors of the Earth* by Sheila Hamanaka
- *Bringing the Rain to Kapiti Plain* by Verna Aardema
- *Miss Spider's Tea Party* by David Kirk

**Friends**
- *Benjamin and Tulip* by Rosemary Wells
- *We Are Best Friends* by Aliki
- *Who Will Be My Friends?* by Syd Hoff

**Fabulous Science Books**
- *Cars and How they Go* by Joanna Cole
- *Eyewitness Juniors Amazing Frogs and Toads* by Barry Clarke
- *Magic School Bus On the Ocean Floor* by Joanna Cole

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**Fun Books to Share**

- *And I Mean It, Stanley* by Crosby Bonsall
- *Arthur* series by Marc Brown
- *A Bad Case of the Stripes* by David Shannon
- *Berenstain Bear* series by Jan and Stan Berenstain
- *Clifford* series by Norman Bridwell
- *Dinosaur Time* by Peggy Parish
- *The Eye Book* by Theo LeSieg
- *Franklin* series by Paulette Bourgeois
- *Froggy* series by Jonathan London
- *Green Eggs and Ham* by Dr. Seuss
- *Hi! Fly Guy* by Tedd Arnold
- *How I Became a Pirate* by Melinda Long
- *Junie B. Jones* series by Barbara Park
- *Little Critter* series by Mercer Mayer
- *Morris theoose* by Bernard Wiseman
- *Nate the Great* series by Marjorie Weinman Sharmat
- *Rainbow Fish* by Marcus Pfister
- *The Very Busy Spider* by Eric Carle

**Math in Picture Books**

- *How Much Is a Million?* by David M. Schwartz
- *One Potato: A Counting Book of Potato Prints* by Diana Pomeroy
- *When Sheep Cannot Sleep* by Satoshi Kitamura

**Classics to Read to a First Grader**

- *Leo the Late Bloomer* by Robert Kraus
- *The Little House* by Virginia Lee Burton
- *Make Way for Ducklings* by Robert McCloskey
- *When Will I Read?* by Miriam Cohen

**Caldecott Awards and Honor Books**

- *Alphabet City* by Stephen Johnson
- *Ashanti to Zulu: African Traditions* by Margaret Musgrove
- *The Hello, Goodbye Window* by Norton Juster and Chris Raschka
- *Owen* by Kevin Henkes
- *The Polar Express* by Chris Van Allsburg
- *A Story, A Story* by Gail E. Haley

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**Learning to Read Series**

- Hello Reader!
- I Can Read Books
- Puffin Easy-to-Read
- Step Into Reading Levels 1–4

**Alphabet Books**

- *Animalia* by Graeme Baese
- *The Icky Bug Alphabet Book* by Jerry Pallotta
- *Z Was Zapped* by Chris Van Allsburg

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**School Stories**
- *Amazing Grace* by Mary Hoffman
- *Arthur's Prize Reader* by Lillian Hoban
- *The Day Jimmy's Boa Ate the Wash* by Trinka Hakes Noble
- *Fish Face* by Patricia Reilly Giff
- Junie B. Jones series by Barbara Park
- *Lilly's Purple Plastic Purse* by Kevin Henkes
- *Miss Nelson Is Missing* by Harry Allard
- Polk Street Gang series by Patricia Reilly Giff

**Books About Friends**
- *A Bargain for Frances* by Russell Hoban
- *The Beast in Ms. Rooney's Room* by Patricia Reilly Giff
- *Fox on the Job* by James Marshall
- *Frog and Toad Together* by Arnold Lobel
- *Horrible Harry and the Green Slime* by Suzy Kline
- *Pinky and Rex* by James Howe

**Historical Fiction**
- American Girls series
- *Deputy Dan and the Bank Robbers* by Joseph Rosenbloom
- *Kamishibai Man* by Allen Say

**Classics to Read Aloud**
- *Alice in Wonderland* by Lewis Carroll
- *Just-so Stories* by Rudyard Kipling
- *Paddington Bear* by Michael Bond
- *Winnie the Pooh* by A. A. Milne
- *The Wizard of Oz* by L. Frank Baum

**Caldecott Awards and Honor Books**
- *The Funny Little Woman* by Arlene Mosel
- *Many Moons* by James Thurber
- *The Ox-Cart Man* by Donald Hall
- *The Story of Jumping Mouse* by John Steptoe
- *Sylvester and the Magic Pebble* by William Steig
- *When I Was Young in the Mountains* by Cynthia Rylant

**Learning to Read Stories**
- Berenstain Bears series by Jan and Stan Berenstain
- Cam Jansen series by David A. Adler
- *Hello Reader!
- I Can Read Books
- Junie B. Jones series by Barbara Park
- Puffin Easy-to-Read
- Step Into Reading Levels 1–4
- *The Stories Julian Tells* by Ann Cameron

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**School Stories**
- *Kirsten Learns a Lesson: A School Story* by Janet Beeler Shaw
- *Ramona Quimby Age 8* by Beverly Cleary

**Animal Stories**
- *The Adventures of Paddington* by Michael Bond (book and tape series)
- *Babe: The Gallant Pig* by Dick King-Smith
- *Catwings* by Ursula K. Le Guin
- *The Lion’s Whiskers: An Ethiopian Folktale* by Nancy Raines Day
- *Rats on the Roof and Other Stories* by James Marshall

**Books About Friends**
- *The Candy Corn Contest* by Patricia Reilly Giff
- *Pinky and Rex* by James Howe

**Historical Fiction**
- *Ben and Me* by Robert Lawson
- *Changes for Addy* by Connie Rose Porter (and other American Girl books)
- *If You Grew Up with George Washington* by Ruth Bovell Gross
- *Kate Shelley and the Midnight Express* by Margaret K. Wetterrer
- *Kibitzers and Fools: Tales My Zayda Told Me* by Simms Taback
- *Pink and Say* by Patricia Polacco
- *Snowflake Bentley* by Jacqueline Briggs Martin
- *Teammates* by Peter Golenbock

**Folktales**
- *Iktomi and the Berries: A Plains Indian Story* by Paul Goble
- *Mirandy and Brother Wind* by Patricia C. McKissack
- *Raven: A Trickster Tale from the Northwest* by Gerald McDermott
- *The Talking Eggs* by Robert D. San Souci

**Great Series Books**
- *Amelia Bedelia* series by Peggy Parish
- *American Girl* series
- *Arthur* series by Marc Brown
- *Berenstain Bears* series by Jan and Stan Berenstain
- *Boxcar Children* by Gertrude Chandler Warner
- *Encyclopedia Brown* by Donald J. Sobol
- *Eyewitness Science Explorers*
- *Henry and Mudge* series by Cynthia Rylant
- *Horrible Harry* series by Suzy Kline
- *Little House* series by Laura Ingalls Wilder
- *Nancy Drew Notebooks* by Carolyn Keene early series
- *Pee Wee Scouts* by Judy Delton
- *Polk Street School* by Patricia Reilly Giff

**Award Winners**
- *The Cat Who Went to Heaven* by Elizabeth Jane Coatsworth
- *Doctor De Soto* by William Steig
- *How Much Is a Million?* by David M. Schwartz
- *Jumanji* by Chris Van Allsburg
- *Mercy Watson to the Rescue* by Kate DiCamillo
- *Mirette on the High Wire* by Emily Arnold McCully
- *Prehistoric Pinkerton* by Steven Kellogg
- *Rabbit Hill* by Robert Lawson
- *The Village of Round and Square Houses* by Ann Grifalconi

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**School Stories**
- *4B Goes Wild* by Jamie Gilson
- *Harriet, the Spy* by Louise Fitzhugh
- *My Teacher Fried My Brains* by Bruce Coville
- *Ramona and Her Father* by Beverly Cleary
- *Sideways Stories from Wayside School* by Louis Sachar

**Mystery and Adventure Stories**
- *The Castle in the Attic* by Elizabeth Winthrop (Challenging independent read)
- *Culpepper's Cannon* by Gary Paulsen
- *Encyclopedia Brown Gets His Man* by Donald J. Sobol
- *Julian, Secret Agent* by Ann Cameron

**Sports Stories**
- *Baseball Fever* by Johanna Hurwitz
- *Benjy the Football Hero* by Jean Van Leeuwen
- *Bobby Baseball* by Robert Kimmel Smith
- *Dog on Third Base* by Constance Hiser
- *Gold Medal Rider* by Bonnie Bryant
- *Tall Man in the Pivot* by Matt Christopher (There are many other sports stories by this author.)

**Fantasy and Science Fiction**
- *Aliens Ate My Homework* by Bruce Coville
- *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe* by C. S. Lewis (Challenging independent read)

**Historical Fiction**
- *The Courage of Sarah Noble* by Alice Dalgleish
- *The Hundred Dresses* by Eleanor Estes
- *The Hundred Penny Box* by Sharon Bell Mathis
- *Little House in the Big Woods* by Laura Ingalls Wilder
- *The Well* by Mildred D. Taylor (Challenging independent read)

**Series Books**
- *The Babysitter's Club* by Ann M. Martin
- *Boxcar Children* by Gertrude Chandler Warner
- *Cam Jansen* by David A. Adler
- *Goosebumps* by R. L. Stine
- *The Hardy Boys* by Franklin W. Dixon
- *Harry Potter* by J. K. Rowling
- *Marvin Redpost series* by Louis Sachar
- *Nancy Drew Mysteries* by Carolyn Keene
- *A Series of Unfortunate Events* by Lemony Snicket
- *The Stories that Julian Tells* by Ann Cameron

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**Great Reads**
- *From the Mixed-Up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler* by E. L. Konigsberg
- *Granny Torrelli Makes Soup* by Sharon Creech
- *Hatchet* by Gary Paulsen
- *Holes* by Louis Sachar
- *Maniac Magee* by Jerry Spinelli
- *Mick Harte Was Here* by Barbara Park
- *Wringer* by Jerry Spinelli

**Mystery and Adventure**
- *Island of the Blue Dolphins* by Scott O’Dell
- *The True Confessions of Charlotte Doyle* by Avi (Challenging independent read)

**Newbery Medal and Honor Books**
- *Afternoon of the Elves* by Janet Taylor Lisle
- *Catherine, Called Birdy* by Karen Cushman
- *Dragon’s Gate* by Laurence Yep (Challenging independent read)
- *The Ear, the Eye, and the Arm* by Nancy Farmer
- *Homesick, My Own Story* by Jean Fritz
- *Missing May* by Cynthia Rylant
- *The Watsons Go to Birmingham* by Christopher Paul Curtis

**Historical Fiction**
- *Black Stallion* by Walter Farley (Challenging independent read)
- *Bull Run* by Paul Fleischman
- *Code Talker: A Novel About the Navajo Marines of World War Two* by Joseph Bruchac
- *Sarah Bishop* by Scott O’Dell

**Fantasy and Science Fiction**
- *The BFG* by Roald Dahl
- *Harry Potter* by J. K. Rowling
- *The High King* by Lloyd Alexander (Very challenging independent read)
- *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe* by C. S. Lewis
- *Lizard Music* by Daniel Pinkwater
- *Redwall* by Brian Jacques (Challenging independent read)
- *A Swiftly Tilting Planet* by Madeleine L’Engle

**Humorous Stories**
- *Freaky Friday* by Mary Rodgers
- *Matilda* by Roald Dahl
- *Skinnybones* by Barbara Park

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