

Snuggle Up Together

Books for Newborns to Pre-schoolers



Acknowledgements

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Contact the NWT Literacy Council to get copies of this resource. You can also download it from our website.

With thanks to Pat Ilgok and Kathryn Barry Paddock of the NWT Literacy Council.

What is Early Literacy?

- ▶ A baby who chews on a book
- ▶ A toddler who wants his favourite book read over and over again
- ▶ A pre-schooler who 'reads' the story to you from memory
- ▶ A child singing a song
- ▶ A toddler tracing letters in the sand
- ▶ A child listening to a family story

These are all examples of early literacy - the beginning stage of literacy development when your child is learning about the world around her. Literacy is not only about reading and writing. Many activities support pre-literacy development.

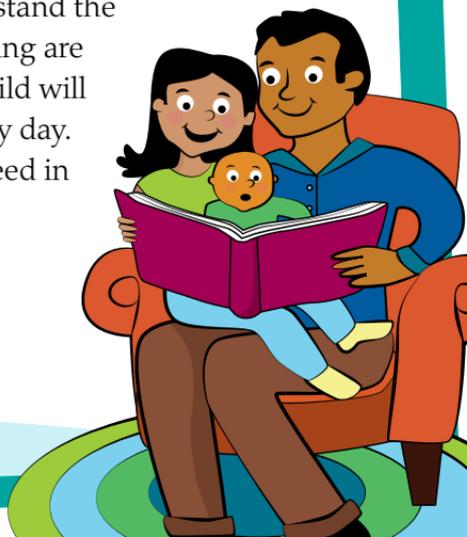
Children begin to develop language and literacy skills at birth; some people say even before birth. They learn to talk by:

- ▶ Hearing other people talk to them
- ▶ Hearing the sounds of their parents' or other caregivers' voices

Reading, talking, singing, writing and playing with your child all stimulate the growth of your child's brain and create the connections that are the building blocks for literacy. Early on, children learn important pre-literacy skills, such as how to handle books and turn pages.

Although a small baby will not understand the words you read, your voice and cuddling are exactly what your baby needs. Your child will benefit when he or she is read to every day. Reading together helps children succeed in both life and school.

You and your children can enjoy the time you spend reading together. Make it fun!



Babies

It is never too early to start reading to your baby, so grab a great book, and snuggle up with your baby.

Newborns can discriminate a range of sounds and recognize and enjoy the sound of their parents' voices. They really enjoy faces and high contrast colours. Sturdy board and cloth books can withstand being handled and chewed. As they get older, babies love to touch different textures. As a baby, they can imitate sounds and point to illustrations.



Here are some great books to share with young babies.

Welcome Song for Baby

Nighty-Night, A Bedtime Song for Babies

Little You

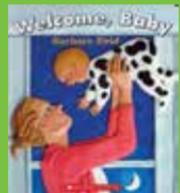
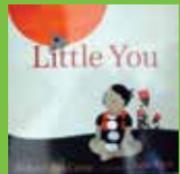
Richard Van Camp

These sturdy books by northern author, Richard Van Camp, celebrate the joy and wonder that new babies bring into the world.

Little You has been translated into South Slavey, Chipewyan and Cree.

Welcome, Baby *Barbara Reid*

Great illustrations in this book celebrate the joy parents and families have when a baby is born.



Babies love hearing the voices of their parents and other family members.

Mama and Baby! *Kaaren Pixton*

This wordless book is great for you to come up with your own words to tell this story to your child. It's all about animal moms and babies. The book is one of a series and is indestructible. You can also wash it!



Baby Look *Shanda LaRamee-Jones and Carol McDougall*

A lovely fold-out book with beautiful photos of babies doing everyday things and having great fun. Babies will smile with delight as they look at these babies.



Count My Kisses, Little One

Ruthie May and Tamsin Ainslie

Cozy up and count the kisses from 1 to 10.

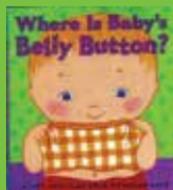


On the Night You Were Born *Nancy Tillman*

Parents never forget the day their baby was born. This book lets children share that magical experience, when bears danced at the news of their birth, or the night wind whispered their name.

Where Is Baby's Belly Button? *Karen Katz*

Adorable babies are playing peekaboo. Easy-to-lift flaps and lovely illustrations make this a great book to read together.



I Love You Baby from Head to Toe!

Karen Pandell

Celebrate baby's many lovable parts, from their heads to their tiny toes and everything in between.



Snug *Carol Thompson*

Feeling snug is the best feeling in the whole world. This charming rhyme celebrates the many ways we can enjoy feeling cosy, warm and loved, ending with the nicest way of all – a hug!



Set aside a time for reading (like bedtime) and a place, like a comfy chair.

Kiss Tickle Cuddle Hug *Susan Musgrave*

Every baby or toddler will love the photos in this baby book that will make them feel loved and safe, with kisses, tickles, cuddles and hugs.



Toes, Ears, and Nose! *Marion Dene Bauer*

Lift the flaps of different types of clothing and find out what's underneath. You can play a fun peek-a-boo game over and over again with this book.



Peek-a-Who? A Lift-a-flap Book *Moira Butterfield*

Children will love this lovely rhyming book. It is a clever twist on the old favourite game, peek-a-boo. Babies love the rhymes and large drawings.

Rain, Rain Go Away! *Caroline Jayne Church*

This classic children's song is fun to sing together.



Touch and Feel Bathtime *DK Publishing*

Explore all sorts of textures from fluffy towels to squishy toy turtles.



The Baby's Catalogue *Janet and Allan Ahlberg*

Mums and Dads, breakfasts and bedtimes, pets and toys and prams and swings - and lots and lots of other fascinating things! This charmingly illustrated book presents a vast array of baby things that young children instantly recognize.

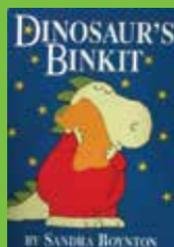
Fish Eyes *Lois Elert*

Bright, colourful illustrations let children count all different kinds of fish, from striped fish to flashy fish.



Dinosaur's Binkit *Sandra Boynton*

What's a binkit? Find out as Dinosaur tries to find his binkit while getting ready for bed. Listen! Look! Touch! Giggle!



Goodnight Moon *Margaret Wise Brown*

This is every child's favourite bedtime book. It's about going to bed and saying good night to everything in the room.

Five Shiny Stars *Scholastic*

This is similar to five little monkeys, but is about shining stars. Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star plays as you read the rhyme about five stars that disappear.

Spot's abc *Eric Hill*

Learning the alphabet is really good fun with Spot! Bright, colourful illustrations and lift-the-flaps make this a fun way to learn the alphabet.

Pat the Bunny *Dorothy Kunhardt*

Lots of activities to do together as Paul and Judy play peek-a-boo, smell flowers, look in the mirror and, of course, pat the bunny.

Good Night, I Love You *Caroline Jane Church*

This rhyming story helps children learn about getting ready for bed.

Pots and Pans *Patricia Hubbell*

Children love to play with pots and pans, lids and cans. They love making loud noises with them – clanging and banging.

Peekaboo Kisses *Barney Saltzberg*

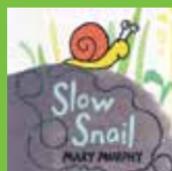
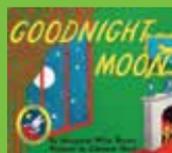
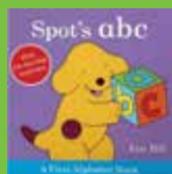
What kind of kisses does baby see?

Slow Snail *Mary Murphy*

Snail moves slowly down, through, in and out, home in time for dinner, and leaves a silvery trail as she goes.

I See Me *Margaret Manual*

Babies love to look at pictures of other babies. This book is filled with pictures of things babies do every day: eating, sleeping, drinking, playing with a rattle, rolling on the floor. The book is Aboriginal themed.



At 6 – 9 months, babies begin to imitate sounds.

One Duck Stuck *Phyllis Root*

One duck is stuck in the muck! Together you can count the animals that come splishing, plunking, slooshing to the rescue in this counting book.

Yummy Yucky *Leslie Patricelli*

For some people, some things are Yummy. For some people, things are Yucky. But everything is FUN!

Jack and Jill and Other Nursery Rhymes

Lucy Cousins

Babies will love this selection of well-known nursery rhymes.

White on Black/Black on White *Tana Hoban*

Very young babies can see only sharp contrasts. These two books in black and white are perfect for young babies.

Baby Faces *Margaret Miller*

Babies will love these baby faces expressing many different emotions.

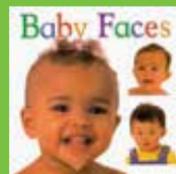
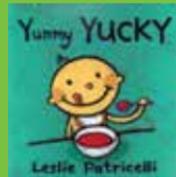
Fluffy Chick and Friends *Roger Priddy*

Familiar farmyard animal pictures with textures let babies touch and feel things on every page. The rhyming text is fun for babies too.

One Fish, Two Fish, Red Fish, Blue Fish

Dr. Seuss

A simple rhyming book about a boy and a girl, and the many amazing creatures they have for friends and pets.



Babies can begin to turn pages.

Toddlers

Toddlers are beginning to understand an increasing number of words and can point at and name familiar things.

They are beginning to understand spatial concepts, like up, down. They respond to books with bright coloured pictures, parts of the story that are repeated, and they love to sing songs. As they get older, they also start to count. Reading is all about fun and games.



Here are some great books to share with toddlers.

Peekaboo! *Taro Gomi*

If you spread this book flat, you can have hours of fun. Every spread includes a funny fact about creatures from bears to robots. Young readers are surprised to find that the eye-sized holes allow each spread to become a mask!



Guess How Much I Love You *Sam McBratney*

Little Nutbrown Hare shows his daddy how much he loves him: as wide as he can reach and as far as he can hop. But Big Nutbrown Hare, who can reach farther and hop higher, loves him back just as much. How far do they love each other?



Moo, Baa, La La La! *Sandra Boynton*

Children love this silly book about animal's sounds. It is filled with Sandra Boynton's wonderful animal illustrations.



One Moose, Twenty Mice *Clare Beaton*

Children will love to search for the cat, while counting the animals from one to twenty. This book introduces animals like frogs, whales and ducks. The felt pictures are a colourful backdrop to counting.



Toddlers settle better at night when you read a book to them before bedtime.

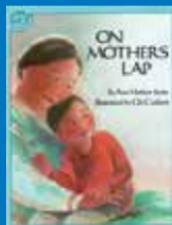
Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus! *Mo Willems*

When a bus driver takes a break from his route, a pigeon volunteers to take his place! As he pleads, wheedles, and begs his way through the book, children will love being able to answer back and decide his fate.



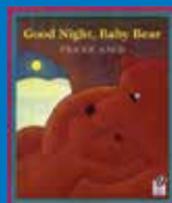
On Mother's Lap *Ann Herbert Scott*

Michael's favourite place is on Mother's lap, cuddled close in her arms in the big rocking chair. It's even cozier when he brings Boat, Dolly, and Puppy to snuggle with him in his reindeer blanket. But what happens when Michael's baby sister begins to cry?



Good Night, Baby Bear *Frank Asch*

Baby Bear doesn't want to go to sleep. First he wants a snack. Then he wants a drink. And now he wants the moon! Mother Bear manages to find the right comforts for her baby.



Knuffle Bunny *Mo Willems*

Daddy takes Trixie on a trip to the neighbourhood Laundromat, but on their way back home Trixie has a temper tantrum because her bunny gets left behind.



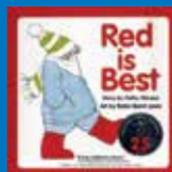
Duck and Goose *Tad Hills*

Goose wants to play in the snow, but Duck tells him they don't have time for that because it's time for Christmas.



Red is Best *Kathy Stinson*

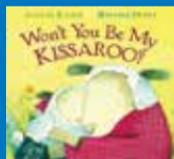
This little girl wants to wear nothing but red! Her red stockings make her jump high. Her red jacket is like a Red Riding Hood jacket. She can take bigger steps with her red boots. Her holey red mittens make better snowballs. Her red pajamas keep the monsters away. So "Red is Best".



Won't You Be My Kissaroo?

Joanne Ryder and Melissa Sweet

This book celebrates lots of different kinds of kisses—from sticky breakfast kisses to playful “gotcha!” kisses to special birthday cake kisses!



Mommy Calls Me Monkeypants

J. D. Lester

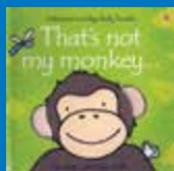
This book is all about funny nicknames. It captures the sweetness and fun of mothers' endearing nicknames for their babies from humans to animals.



Tails

Matthew Van Fleet

Toddlers have lots of things to do in this book: tabs, flaps, tufts of fur, and even a scratch-and-sniff skunk tail provide plenty of tactile surprises. Along the way, youngsters learn about counting, opposites, and how animals use their tails.



That's Not My Monkey

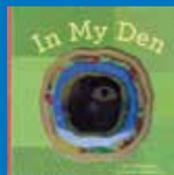
Fiona Watt

This book features bright and colourful illustrations, with different textures to touch and feel on each page.

In My Den

Sara Gillingham

What makes Little Bear's den so cozy? Is it Little Bear's warm earth and fluffy bed of leaves? No, it's his loving family!



Night-Night, Forest Friends

Annie Bach

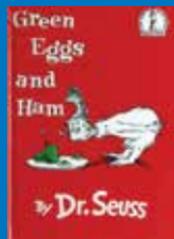
As the sun sets, animals all over the forest get ready for bed. This gentle rhyming book helps little ones settle down for a cozy night.



Each Peach Pear Plum

Janet and Allan Ahlberg

You can play the classic “I spy” game with this book. The rhymed verses give children clues about who to look for, like Tom Thumb, Jack and Jill, The Three Little Bears and other nursery rhyme characters hiding in the pictures.



Green Eggs and Ham

Dr. Seuss

Do you like green eggs and ham? Sam-I-Am keeps offering his friend green eggs and ham. His friend keeps telling him “I do not like green eggs and ham.” Children love this book.

Toddlers love to
sing songs.

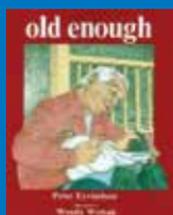
Not A Stick *Antoinette Portis*

With a stick in hand, the options are endless—whether it's conducting an orchestra, painting a masterpiece, or slaying a dragon. Give a child a stick; let the imagination take over and the magic begin.



Old Enough *Peter Eyvindson*

A father is happy when his son is born. He dreams of all he will teach his son, all the things they will do together when his son is old enough. The father works and is too busy. Suddenly, he finds his son is a man; and he has missed their time together. Will he have another chance?



You're All My Favourites *Sam McBratney*

Who is Mommy Bear and Daddy Bear's favourite baby bear? Two brothers and a sister try to find out the answer and find there is enough love for everyone.



Turnagain Ptarmigan! Where Did You Go?

James Guenther

Meet the willow ptarmigan, the Alaska state bird and a master of camouflage. A young girl searches for her ptarmigan friend through the seasons, but the bird's constantly changing plumage blends so perfectly with its surroundings, the little girl often has a hard time finding her friend.



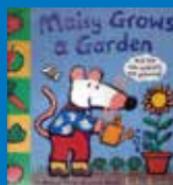
Hide and Seek Fog *Alvin Tresselt*

The worst fog in twenty years rolls in and clouds the seaside village. For three days, the adults wait impatiently for the fog to lift. But the children love playing hide-and-seek on the rocks in the fog, getting lost in front of their own cottages, and toasting marshmallows indoors.



Maisy Grows a Garden *Lucy Cousins*

Toddlers and pre-schoolers can help Maisy dig, sow seeds, water the earth, and weed the garden. Children can pull the flaps and help Maisy grow her garden.



**Toddlers can point at
and name familiar objects.**

Toddlers love to join in when parts of the story are repeated.

Lemonade in Winter

Emily Jenkins and G. Brian Kates

Two children count money while selling lemonade in the middle of winter. Pauline teaches her brother John-John the cost of four lemons, four limes, sugar and cups. How much does that all add up to?

Split! Splat! *Amy Gibson*

When one little girl and her dog venture out on a rainy, spring day, the neighbourhood joins her and what results is squishy, slushy, muddy day fun.

Love You Forever *Robert Munsch*

A young woman holds her newborn son and looks at him lovingly. She softly sings to him. This story tells how the little boy goes through the stages of childhood and becomes a man, and about parents' love.

The Going to Bed Book *Sandra Boynton*

A joyful, silly group of animals scrub, scrub, scrub in the tub, brush and brush and brush their teeth, and finally rock and rock and rock to sleep.

The Foot Book *Dr. Seuss*

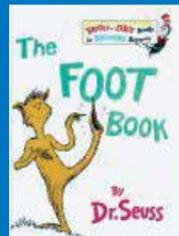
Babies will love this wacky book of opposites like "wet foot, dry foot".

Carry Me, Mama *Monica Devine*

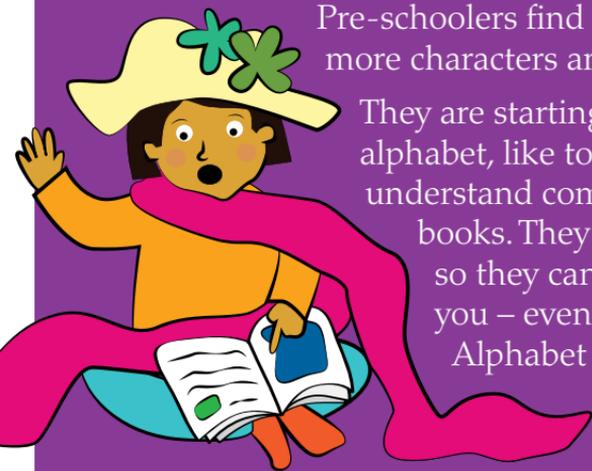
When Katie was a baby she was carried on her mother's back in her parka. One spring, mother decides that it is time for Katie to walk on her own. Katie is overwhelmed and begs, "Carry me, Mama!" but Mama knows it is time for Katie to walk on her own.

Not Your Typical Dragon *Dan Bar-el*

Everybody knows your typical dragon breathes fire. But instead of fire, this dragon breathes a host of unusual things like whipped cream, marshmallows and other things. Will Crispin ever find his inner fire?



Pre-schoolers



Pre-schoolers find books with longer plots, more characters and longer words enjoyable.

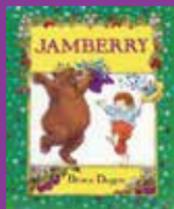
They are starting to learn letters of the alphabet, like to ask lots of questions, understand comparisons and love silly books. They also like to tell stories, so they can retell the story to you – even if they just make it up!

Alphabet books, counting books, colours, sizes and shapes are suitable for this age group.

Here are some great books to share with pre-schoolers.

Jamberry *Bruce Degen*

A boy and a bear go on an exciting trip looking for berries. Their adventure comes to a razzamatazz end under a starberry sky.



The Grouchy Ladybug *Eric Carle*

This ladybug is mean to everyone. She wants to pick a fight with everyone regardless of their size and strength. But what will happen when she meets up with an elephant?



The Little Red Hen (makes a pizza)

Philemon Sturges

Little Red Hen's friends are too busy playing to help her make a pizza, so she sets off on her own to get what she needs. Then she prepares the pizza, and when they smell it, Little Red Hen's friends want to help her eat it. After the meal, they find a way to help out after all!



You can read stories with more complicated plots to your pre-schooler.

Pre-schoolers like to tell stories themselves.

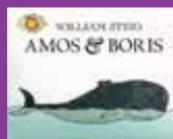
Kumak's House *Michael Bania*

At the edge of a great frozen river, Kumak and his family live in their house by the willows. Though their house is warm and cozy, his family isn't happy. Set in an Inupiat Eskimo village in northwest Alaska, this folktale is a humorous lesson on life.



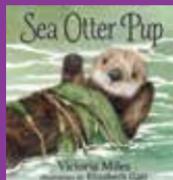
Amos and Boris *William Steig*

Amos the mouse and Boris the whale are best friends. They have nothing at all in common, except good hearts and a willingness to help their fellow mammal. Boris the whale helps Amos get to land after falling out of his boat during a storm.



Sea Otter Pup *Victoria Miles*

Mother Otter always looks after her pup as she feeds and grooms him until he is old enough to look after himself.



Chicka Chicka Boom Boom

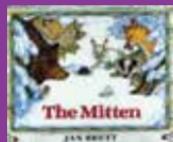
Bill Martin Jr. and John Archambault

If all the letters of the alphabet race one another up the coconut tree, will there be enough room? Oh, no - Chicka Chicka BOOM! BOOM!



The Mitten *Jan Brett*

When Nicki drops his white mitten in the snow, he doesn't realize that it is missing. One by one woodland animals find the mitten and crawl inside it. When the bear has a great sneeze, the boy finds his mitten.



The Very Itchy Bear *Nick Bland*

The bear is pestered by a flea that bites him everywhere. He's cranky because of Flea, but finds out that's just how Flea says "Hello!"



The Story of Ferdinand *Munro Leaf*

All the other bulls would run and jump and butt their heads together, but Ferdinand would rather sit and smell the flowers. So what will happen when he is picked for the bullfights in Madrid?

books about school help prepare pre-schoolers for Kindergarten.

Arctic Sky *Vladyana KryKorka*

This board book focuses on birds, often showing a mother with her young. The lovely watercolour paintings introduce young readers to birds, such as swooping owls and graceful, gliding swans.



Walking in Dettah

The students at Kaw Tay Whee School in Dettah, NWT

Take a walk in Dettah and find out which animals you might see each month. This book is written in English and the Wilìideh Dialect.



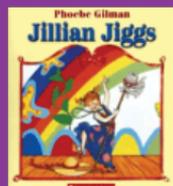
Stella, Fairy of the Forest *Marie Louise Gay*

Stella's little brother, Sam, wonders whether fairies are invisible. Stella assures him she has seen hundreds of them and says if she and Sam cross the meadow into the forest, they are likely to find some. But Sam surprises Stella and himself by having a few ideas of his own – ideas that ensure a wonderful end to a perfect day in the woods.



Jillian Jiggs *Phoebe Gillman*

No one can keep up with Jillian Jiggs. With boundless energy and imagination, Jillian rushes from game to game. One minute she's a robot, the next minute she's a tree. How can she take time to clean up her room when there are so many wonderful things to make and do?



The Very Hungry Caterpillar *Eric Carle*

Follow the progress of a very hungry caterpillar as he eats his way through a varied and very large quantity of food, until, full at last, he forms a cocoon around himself and goes to sleep. What happens next?



Hairy Maclary from Donaldson's Dairy

Lynley Dodd

Children will love the adventures of Hairy and his crew of five funny dogs. All the dogs, big and small, meet their match when they run into a cat.



Baseball Bats for Christmas

Michael Arvaarluk Kusugak

It's always a special day for Arvaarluk and his friends when Rocky Parsons flies his plane into their village on the Arctic Circle. One year, Rocky drops off some strange items that the children have never seen before – trees, but the children think they must be baseball bats.



The Gruffalo *Julia Donaldson*

A mouse takes a stroll through the deep, dark wood when along comes a hungry fox, an owl, and then a snake. The mouse is good enough to eat, but smart enough to know this. Discover what happens when the quick-thinking mouse comes face to face with different animals.



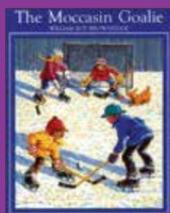
Chuck in the City *Jordan Wheeler*

When he visits the city, Chuck can hardly wait to go exploring! After watching skaters and bladers and being chased by a rat, he gets lost. By thinking carefully, Chuck realizes how he can find his way back home.



The Moccasin Goalie *William Roy Brownridge*

Danny and his friends are hockey mad – always playing road hockey or shinny on the community rink. When a town team is formed, only Marcel is picked for it. Danny is very disappointed. Find out what happens when Danny is asked to play for the team in the end.



Red Parka Mary *Peter Eyvindson*

A seven-year-old boy is afraid of his neighbour, Mary. One day she gives him chokecherries for his mother, which she used to make chokecherry jelly for breakfast. In the end, he learns many things from Mary on his way home from school. Find out what happens when they exchange Christmas gifts.



Pre-schoolers like
make-believe or
silly stories.

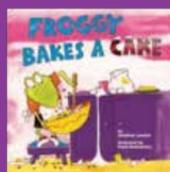
The Missing Sun *Peter Eyvindson*

When Emily and her mother move to Inuvik, Emily has a hard time believing that the sun is going to disappear for many days. But her new friend Josie assures her that it really is true. When they do lose the sun, Emily hears different explanations. Her mother tells her that the earth is tilted, while Josie says Raven has stolen the sun. But Emily's main concern is, will the sun ever shine again?



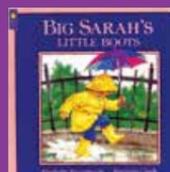
Froggy Bakes a Cake *Jonathan London*

It is Froggy's mother's birthday, and Froggy wants to make her a cake all by himself. But Froggy finds out that baking a cake is a little harder and messier than he thought. In the end, Froggy serves up a homemade birthday cake his mother will never forget!



Big Sarah's Little Boots *Paulette Bourgeois*

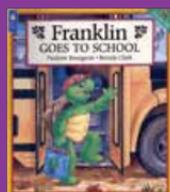
Sarah loves her yellow boots, but one day, they just don't fit anymore. No amount of stretching will make them big again, so Sarah has to choose new boots. Children will relate to this story of growing up..



Franklin Goes to School

Paulette Bourgeois and Brenda Clark

With his new pencil case packed with a ruler, eraser and 12 coloured pencils, Franklin is ready for his first day of school, until it's time to board the bus. Then he feels both nervous and excited.



The Day the Crayons Quit *Drew Daywalt*

Duncan just wants to color, but when he opens his box of crayons, he finds only letters, all saying the same thing: We quit! The crayons are all arguing with each other. What is Duncan to do?



The Enormous Potato *Retold by Aubrey Davis*

A farmer plants a potato eye. It grows and grows into an enormous potato. When it's harvest time, the potato is so big that the farmer can't pull it out. So he calls for help, first to his wife, then to their daughter, then to the dog. This is a story of co-operation and community.



Me Too *Brent Kaulback and Eileen Beaver*

A young Dene boy wants to be able to do all the things his grandpa does. This book is in English and NWT Aboriginal languages.

Make Way For Ducklings *Robert McCloskey*

The busy Boston streets are too dangerous for eight little ducklings! But with a little help from a friendly policeman Mrs. Mallard and her family arrive safely at their new home in the public garden.

Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day *Judith Viorst*

Alexander knew it was going to be a terrible day when he woke up with gum in his hair. And it got worse... His best friend deserted him. There was no dessert in his lunch bag. And, on top of all that, there were lima beans for dinner and kissing on TV!

A Year with Marmalade *Alison Reynolds*

Ella and Maddy are best friends, but Maddy has to move away and asks Ella to look after her cat, Marmalade. Both Ella and Marmalade cry and cry when Maddy leaves. Ella tries to do fun things, but nothing is fun without Maddy. Then one morning Ella finds Marmalade curled up by her feet, and they become good friends.

Biggest, Strongest, Fastest *Steve Jenkins*

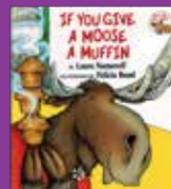
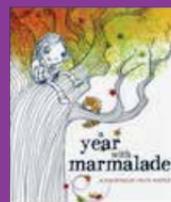
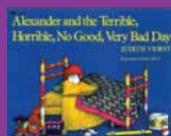
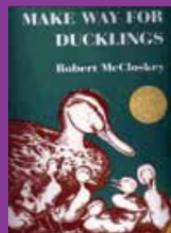
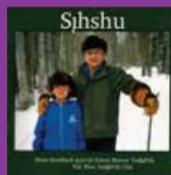
The biggest snake, the anaconda, can swallow a deer or goat whole. The smallest mammal, the Etruscan shrew, could easily sleep in a teaspoon. Biggest, Strongest, Fastest portrays animals that stand out in the animal world as the largest, slowest, longest lived.

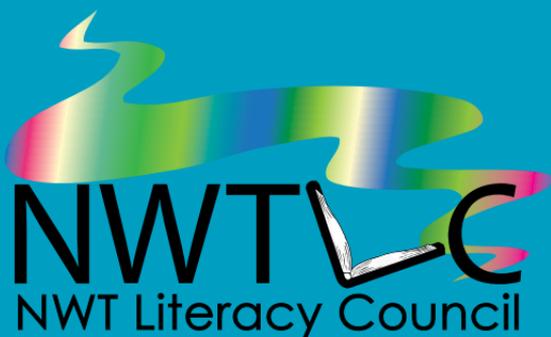
If You Give a Moose a Muffin *Laura Joffe Numeroff*

If you give a big hungry moose a muffin, he'll want some jam to go with it, and things will become very messy. When he's eaten all your muffins, he'll want to go to the store to get some more muffin mix.

Musk Ox Count *Erin Cabatingan and Matthew Myers*

This counting book is 1 rowdy musk ox + 1 annoyed zebra = 1 awesome counting book. This counting book is great for children to start counting.





NWT Literacy Council
Box 761, Yellowknife, NT X1A 2N6

Phone: (867) 873-9262

Fax: (867) 873-2176

Toll Free: 1-866-599-6758

Email: nwtliteracy@nwtliteracy.ca

Website: www.nwt.literacy.ca

