



Ready for Reading Website Toronto Public Library

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Manager, Children's Services





**Ready for
Reading**

**Ready for Reading**

BIRTH TO 5

[Books & More](#) [Programs](#) [Things to Do](#) [Visit the Library](#) [About Ready for Reading](#)

Easy, everyday, early literacy support

 **FROM OUR BLOG**

Thinking About Moving to Canada, eh?

by RayL

Discover a selection of children's books, celebrating diversity, health care, education and hockey.

 **WE SUGGEST**

Book: Welcome

After the ice they're living on breaks, three polars drift away and must find a new home.

 **FEATURED PROGRAM**

Fairy Tale Storytimes

Toronto Reference Library: TD Gallery

Tuesday November 15, 2016

10:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.

Enjoy a storytime inspired by classic fairy tales and multicultural folk tales. Drop-in.



Browse Books

Browse our best books for children under 5, and get expert staff recommendations. Encouraging a love of books is a great

**Tips for Parents**

Let's Get Ready for Reading!

Easy, everyday activities that you do with your child help to build important pre-reading skills.

[Find out more](#)



● Talk

Talking with your child helps build language and vocabulary skills.

● Read

Reading together is the best way to help your child become a strong reader.

● Sing

Singing helps your child hear the sounds in words and build their vocabulary.

● Play

Play is how children learn, and how they come to understand their world.

● Write

Writing helps children learn that letters and words represent sounds and have meaning.



Let's Get Ready for Reading Guide

A fun guide full of easy, everyday family activities to help kids become readers.



Get a Library Card

Visit any library branch to get your child, and yourself, a free library card today.



Research Behind Ready for Reading

Discover the latest early literacy research behind Ready for Reading.



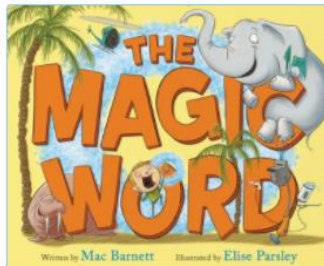
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Find Great New Books for Kids 5 and Under

- ABC & 123
- Animals
- Bedtime
- Dinosaurs
- Explore the World
- Friends & Family
- LOL Funny
- Holidays & Celebrations
- My Body & Feelings
- Play
- Popular Characters
- Ready for School
- Rhymes & Tales
- Sizes, Shapes & Colours
- Things That Go!

Staff Picks

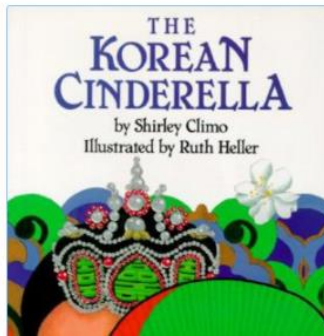


FROM OUR BLOG

The Magic of Picture Books

by Alice M.

Discover the magic of picture books.



FROM OUR BLOG

Five Reasons to Read Fairy Tales

by Sharanja T.

"If you want your children to be intelligent, read them fairy tales. If you want them to be more intelligent, read them more fairy tales."

Albert Einstein



Award Winners

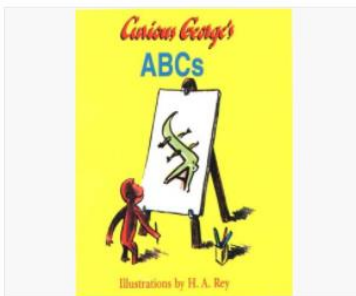
Discover a selection of award winning and shortlisted children's books.



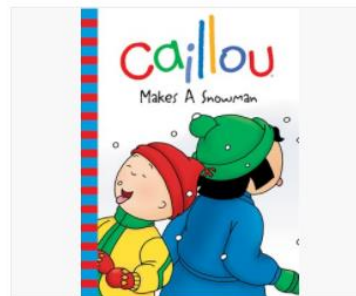
eBooks Available to Read Now



Every Little Thing
Bob Marley



Curious George's ABCs
H. A. Rey



Caillou Makes a Snowman
Roger Harvey



Emmet's Awesome Day
Anna Holmes

[Browse more ebooks](#)

More Ways to Enjoy Stories Together



TumbleBooks

Browse and download great reads to your computer or device.



Hear-a-story

Listen to wonderful stories in a variety of languages.



Dial-a-story

Call 416-395-5400 anytime to hear favourite stories in many languages.



Audiobooks

Borrow favourite stories to hear on the road or at home.



Accessible Formats

Share the joy of reading in its many forms.



Music and Movies

Borrow or stream them now from our great selection of music, shows and movies.





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Home > Books & More >

Browse New Books for Kids 5 and Under by Topic:

Aa ABC & 123

🐾 Animals

🌙 Bedtime

🦖 Dinosaurs

🌳 Explore the World

❤️ Friends & Family

LOL Funny

🎈 Holidays & Celebrations

😊 My Body & Feelings

🚩 Play

★ Popular Characters

📖 Ready for School

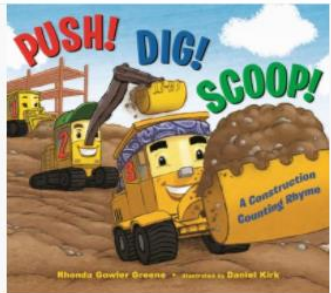
🌟 Rhymes & Tales

👤 Sizes, Shapes & Colours

🚪 Things That Go!

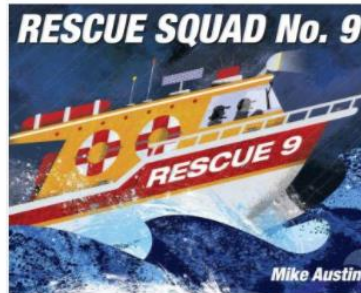
New Books about Things That Go!

8 of 43 Items



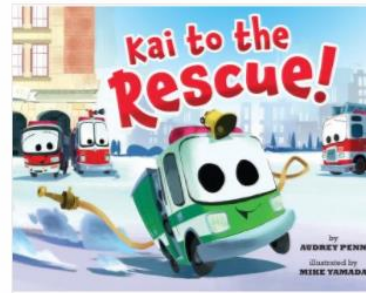
Push! dig! scoop! : a construction counting rhyme

Greene, Rhonda Gowler
Kirk, Daniel



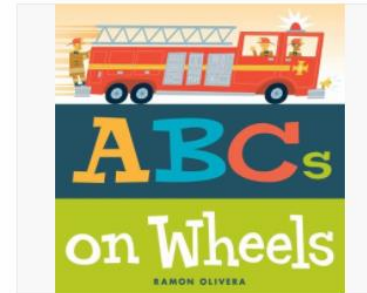
Rescue squad no. 9

Austin, Mike, 1963-



Kai to the rescue!

Penn, Audrey, 1947-
Yamada, Mike



ABCs on wheels

Olivera, Ramon





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Library programs for kids 5 and under



😊 **ALL AGES**

Movie: Ice Age Collision Course

Albion Branch

Friday November 18, 2016
2:00 p.m.- 3:30 p.m.

Enjoy an afternoon movie for the whole family. Rated G
Drop-in.



😊 **AGES: 2-6**

Music and Movement for Kids

Palmerston Branch

Monday November 14, 2016
4:30 p.m.- 5:00 p.m.

Enjoy songs, dance and movement activities. Drop-in.
Additional Dates: November 21, 28 and December 5.



😊 **AGES: 0-5**

Family Time: French

Don Mills Branch

Saturday December 3, 2016
11:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

Stories, songs, rhymes and fun in French. Drop-in. No
registration required.

Programs for Kids 5 and Under

These staff-led storytimes are for children and their parents or caregivers. They encourage a lifelong love of reading, develop a child's reading readiness and show parents and caregivers how to get their child ready for reading.



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Some storytimes require pre-registration. Check your library branch for details.

By Age:



Baby Time (Birth - 18 months)

Introduce your child to sounds and actions at a staff-led storytime with bouncing and tickling rhymes, songs and stories. For babies with their parents or caregivers.



Toddler Time (19 months - 3 years)

Familiarize your child with letters, numbers and colors at a staff-led storytime with stories, songs, rhymes and activities. For toddlers with their parents or caregivers.



Preschool Time (3 - 5 years)

Expand your child's vocabulary at a staff-led storytime with stories, activities, songs and rhymes. For children with their parents or caregivers.



Storytime in Action

Storytimes are made up of songs, rhymes and stories that help build early literacy skills. Check out our fun YouTube videos and playlists to watch at home with your child.

For The Whole Family:



Family Time (5 years and under)

Enjoy fun activities, stories, songs and rhymes at a staff-led



Pyjama Time (5 years and under)

Prepare your child for bed with a staff-led storytime with



All Programs (5 years and under)

Join us for puppet shows, games, crafts, stories and much





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Filter Results

Dates

Today (14)

Tomorrow (12)

This Week (30)

This Month (52)

Next Month (30)

Library Branches

Agincourt (1)

Albert Campbell (1)

Albion (1)

Alderwood (1)

Annette Street (1)

Barbara Frum (2)

Baby Time across the city

(Birth - 18 months)

Some storytimes require pre-registrations.
Check the program listings for details.



Upcoming Programs

90 Results

Family Time

3:30 pm - 4:00 pm

Join us for stories, songs and rhymes in the afternoon. For babies, toddlers, preschoolers and children of all ages including their parents or caregivers. Drop in welcome. No registration required.

Event Dates:



Mon, Nov 7

Mon, Nov 14

Mon, Nov 21

Mon, Nov 28

Mon, Dec 5

Mon, Dec 12



Baby Time & Play

1:00 pm - 2:30 pm





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Filter Results

Dates

[This Week \(1\)](#)

[This Month \(1\)](#)

Library Branches

[Clear](#)

[Agincourt \(1\)](#)

Baby Time at Agincourt

(Birth - 18 months)

Some storytimes require pre-registrations.
Check the program listings for details.



Upcoming Programs

1 Results

Baby Time *PROGRAM IS FULL*

2:00 pm - 2:30 pm

Bouncing and tickling rhymes, songs and stories for babies from birth to 18 months with their parents or caregivers. Contact Agincourt Branch for registration.

Event Dates:

Thu, Nov 10

Thu, Nov 17

Thu, Nov 24



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Find fun activities to do with your child

Talking

Reading

Singing

Playing

Writing

Singing

Singing helps your child hear the sounds in words and build their vocabulary.



Rhyme: How Many Days Has My Baby to Play?

Related to: [Hearing Words](#) , [Sing](#)

How many days has my baby to play...



Rhyme: Five Little Speckled Frogs

Related to: [Hearing Words](#) , [Sing](#)

Five little speckled frogs...



Rhyme: Peek-a-boo!

Related to: [Hearing Words](#) , [Sing](#)



Singing Tips

- When you march, dance or sing together, you break up words into smaller sounds. Add actions as you sing a song or recite a poem. Actions help children break down language into separate words and sounds.
- Add clapping, tapping, drumming, bouncing, walking, marching, jumping and dancing activities to language. Say a word to your child and ask him to count the number of sounds he hears, and show the number by holding up his fingers, jumping up and down, or clapping.

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Song: The Wheels on the Bus

Related to: [Hearing Words, Sing](#)

Singing is a fun way to make language come alive for you and your child, and the music makes the words easier to remember. There are many variations to this song, consider making up one with your child.

The wheels on the bus go round and round, *(Trace circles with index fingers)*
Round and round, round and round.

The wheels on the bus go round and round,
All through the town.

Repeat the song substituting:

The doors on the bus go open and shut,... *(Bring hands apart then together)*

The people on the bus go up and down,... *(Bounce up and down)*

The driver on the bus says, "Move on back!..." *(Point toward back)*

The babies on the bus go, "Wah, wah, wah..." *(Open mouth and wipe eyes with fists, as if crying)*

The parents on the bus say, "Shh, shh, shh..." *(Put finger to lips for "Shh" sounds)*

The wipers on the bus go swish, swish, swish... *(Palms face out, move them side to side)*

The horn on the bus goes honk, honk, honk... *(Pretend to honk horn)*
(Repeat first verse)

Print out this rhyme

Download a PDF to print off so you can take it with you and practise with your child wherever you are.





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All kids belong at the library

We have many fun, free programs, inviting spaces and carefully chosen collections for you and your child to explore. Our friendly, expert staff are here to help. Find the branch nearest you and let's get ready to read!

[Hours & Locations](#)



KidsStop early literacy centres are fun, hands-on learning and reading spaces created especially for you and your child to enjoy together.

KidsStop early literacy centres are supported in part by Sophie's Studio and can be found in the following branches:



Bloor/Gladstone

Water is the theme of the Bloor/Gladstone Branch KidsStop. A wave wall greets visitors complete with a puppet hole (surrounded by a carved octopus), a textured giant letter W, lenses that capture a bug's-eye view of the world and a bobber/fishing sphere to simulate fishing in a



Brentwood

Exploring the Alphabet is the theme for Brentwood's KidsStop. The space features larger-than-life letters that encourage children to tell stories, explore vocabulary, become familiar with print and cuddle up together to read.



Cedarbrae

River Express is the theme of Cedarbrae's KidsStop. Children and families enter the 1,000 square foot area through a riverboat entranceway with flooring that illustrates water pebbles and leaves, and are met with a cozy elephant reading nook and a tree with books





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Welcome to Ready for Reading

Ready for Reading: Early Literacy



torontopubliclibrary.ca/ready-for-reading/

You are your child's first and best teacher

You play a key role in your child's early literacy and home is where your child begins to learn:

- Each child is unique and you know your child best. Make the most of playful learning opportunities in your everyday life.
- When you read, talk and play together, you help develop your child's knowledge about reading and writing before he can actually read and write. So, read together as often as possible to ensure your child's success in school and beyond.
- It's never too early to start. It's never too late to learn more. Your child will develop these skills no matter what language you speak at home.

Activities to get your child ready to read

These everyday five activities are easy to do with children of all ages - at home, in the car or anywhere a parent and child spend time together.

Find out more about each activity below:

Talk **Read** **Sing** **Play** **Write**

Skills you'll help them develop along the way

When you practise the five activities with your child, you help them develop important pre-reading skills.

Learn more about building these skills below:

[Liking books](#) [Hearing words](#)
[Knowing words](#) [Telling a story](#)
[Seeing words](#) [Knowing letters](#)



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Write

Writing helps children learn that letters and words represent sounds, and that print has meaning. Before learning how to read a book, a child must learn what a book is, how words work, how letters represent words and that written words are made of individual letters.

Pointing to words as you read them helps your child become familiar with printed language. This helps your child see that in English, we read from the top of the page to the bottom, from left to right, and that it's the print on the page being read, and not the pictures.

The letters in your child's name are most interesting to them. Write your child's name together, write captions to your child's drawings, and have them help you with your lists, or simply give them crayons to draw shapes and letters.

Activities

[Discover Write Activities](#)

Writing Tips

- Encourage scribbling, writing and drawing in daily activities. Give your child opportunities to practice “writing” her name or let her “write” notes or lists.
- A shopping list is one way to show your child that printed words represent real things. Show your child how you write your shopping list (and let him “write” one too). At the store, read the list with your child and find the items together. You can use pictures from flyers to create lists as well.



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Hearing Words

Being able to hear the smaller sounds in words helps children sound out written words:

- Phonological awareness involves hearing the similarities and differences between the sounds that make up words. Being able to identify and create rhymes is part of this important skill.
- Talking and singing with your child, sharing finger plays, and reading books with rhymes all help prepare your child to sound out words as she learns to read.
- This section offers some ideas and activities to help your child hear the smaller sounds in words.

Developmental Milestones

Children learn at different rates. You may observe the following behaviours in your child related to the awareness of sounds in words.

Babies

- Can copy sounds and actions you make.
- Start recognizing words.
- Use sounds to get attention.

Toddlers

- Can repeat a familiar rhyme.
- Can combine words into simple sentences.

Preschoolers

- Show familiarity with rhyming and beginning sounds.
- Participate in rhyming games.





Questions?

Contact information:
Peggy Thomas
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