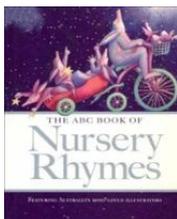


Grandma's Favourites for Babies and Toddlers (0 – approx. 2 years)

Books that appeal to babies and toddlers feature clear, bold, black and white or brightly coloured illustrations and engaging text with rhythm, rhyme, repetition and interesting sounds. Pictures of babies, familiar objects, family routines and animals capture the interest of this age group.

A good anthology of nursery and action rhymes, such as the ones below, will be popular for many years and is an essential part of a family library:



The ABC Book of Nursery Rhymes.

Some of Australia's favourite children's book illustrators choose their favourite nursery rhyme to illustrate in their own distinctive style.

✓ **Australian Illustrators**

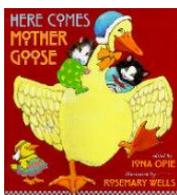


Can You Keep a Secret? : Timeless Rhymes to Share and Treasure.

Selected by Mark Carthew. Illustrated by Jobi Murphy. A collection of nursery rhymes and lullabies, including action verse, playtime rhymes and counting rhymes.

Awards: CBCA Notable Book 2009: Early Childhood.

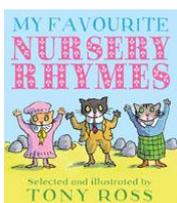
✓ **Australian Author and Illustrator**



Here Comes Mother Goose.

Edited by Iona Opie. Illustrated by Rosemary Wells.

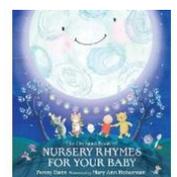
Contains some of the best-known and loved rhymes, appealingly illustrated.



My Favourite Nursery Rhymes.

Selected and Illustrated by Tony Ross.

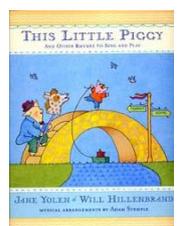
Classic rhymes, humorously illustrated to appeal to young and old. Book and accompanying CD available.



The Orchard Book of Nursery Rhymes for Your Baby.

Illustrated by Penny Dann.

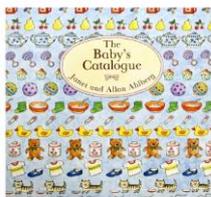
Contains 60 nursery rhymes including animal rhymes, counting rhymes and lullabies.



This Little Piggy: and Other Rhymes to Sing and Play: Lap Songs, Finger Plays, Clapping Games and Action Rhymes.

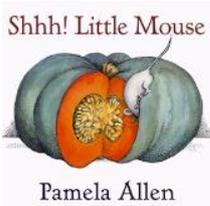
Edited by Jane Yolen. Illustrated by Will Hillenbrand. Musical arrangements by Adam Stemple.

Contains more than 60 lap songs, clapping games, and action rhymes, ideal for babies and toddlers, including 1familiar favourites as well as lesser-known rhymes.



The Baby's Catalogue. Janet and Allan Ahlberg.

In their typically humorous style the Ahlbergs depict a day and night in the lives of five families, focusing on objects and routines that will be familiar to the very young. With lots to find and discuss, little ones will begin to point to and name what they can see on the pages.

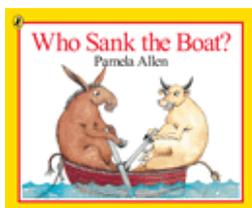


Shhh! Little Mouse. Pamela Allen.

This simple cat and mouse chase is presented in economical yet poetical language that encourages dramatic reading. Large, sumptuous images dominate the pages to hold the attention of young and old. The inclusion of wordless pages allows children to 'read' the story.

Awards: CBCA Book of the Year: Early Childhood, 2008 Shortlist

✓ **Australian Author/Illustrator**

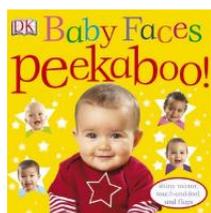


Who Sank the Boat. Pamela Allen.

Guess who will sink the boat when donkey, cow, pig, sheep and mouse go rowing. Cumulative, rhyming text and amusing illustrations are a feature of this classic picture book.

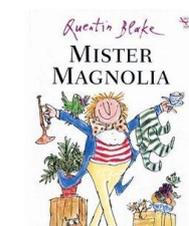
Awards: CBCA Picture Book of the Year 1983; NSW Premier's Literary Award, 1983; IBBY Honour Diploma, 1984

✓ **Australian Author/Illustrator**



Baby Faces Peekaboo! Dorling Kindersley. (publisher) (series)

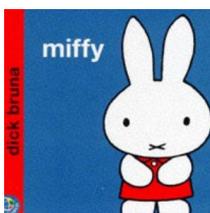
The board books in this series contain large flaps for baby to turn to reveal baby faces or appealing toys. Different textures to touch and feel are also included throughout. Other titles include, **Baby Loves Peekaboo!; Bedtime Peekaboo!; Bathtime Peekaboo!; Beep! Beep! Noisy Peekaboo.**



Mister Magnolia. Quentin Blake.

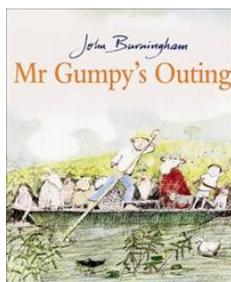
Wonderful to read aloud, the witty rhyming text of this nonsense poem about the eccentric Mr Magnolia, who has only one boot, can be enjoyed by a wide age range. Toddlers will enjoy the rollicking rhythm and Blake's quirky and lively illustrations are loved by all.

Awards: Kate Greenaway Medal, 1980



Miffy. Dick Bruna. (series)

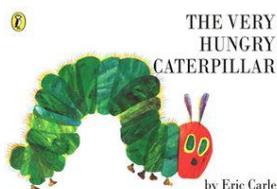
One of the numerous books featuring Miffy, the rabbit and her family. Very young children relate to the simple story-lines about everyday activities and the minimalist illustrations using strong primary colours. The small square format of the books is designed for little hands. Other titles include, **Miffy; Miffy at the Playground; Miffy at the Zoo; Miffy's Garden; Miffy and the New Baby; Miffy Dances**



Mr Gumpy's Outing. John Burningham

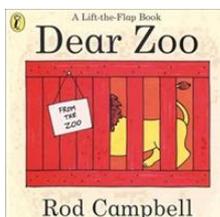
When Mr Gumpy decides to go punting a succession of children and animals ask to join him. All goes well until the goat kicks. Gentle humour, a satisfying conclusion, expressive illustrations and rich language ensure that this masterpiece will be read again and again over many years. In a similar vein, **Mr Gumpy's Motor Car.**

Awards: Kate Greenaway Medal, 1971; Boston Globe/Horn Book Award, 1972



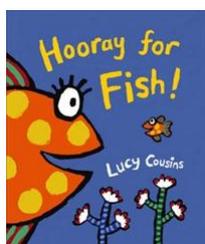
The Very Hungry Caterpillar. Eric Carle

On Monday a very small caterpillar eats through an apple then progressively consumes more each day of the week, until he is big and fat; eventually transformed into a butterfly. This story with its rhythmic text, repetition and interesting illustrations has fascinated readers since it was first published in 1969. Innovative at the time, the small holes in the pages where the caterpillar has nibbled continue to intrigue children.



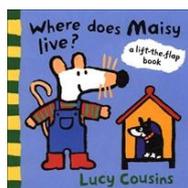
Dear Zoo. Rod Campbell.

A child writes to the zoo to ask for a suitable pet but many inappropriate animals are sent before the perfect one is found. Babies from about 10 months onwards love to lift the varying flaps to discover the hidden animals. Available in dual language editions.



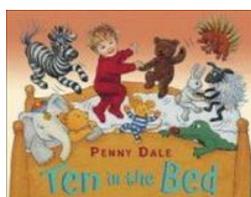
Hooray for Fish. Lucy Cousins.

The large, colourful and patterned fish that fill the pages of this bright book immediately capture attention while the economic, repetitive text introduces children to marvellous descriptive words.



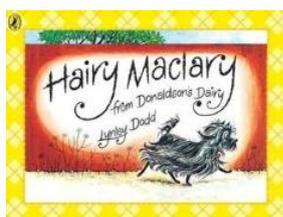
Where does Maisy live? Lucy Cousins. (series)

This is one of a multitude of titles about Maisy, the mouse and her friends involved in everyday exploits relevant to very young children. The books are bright, appealing and perfectly pitched at toddlers and pre-schoolers. Available in several languages. Other titles include, **Playtime Maisy**; **Maisy's Pool**; **Maisy's Bedtime**; **Dr Maisy**.



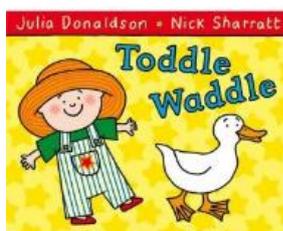
Ten in the Bed. Penny Dale.

Featuring charming toys and a small child, this delightful variation of a traditional rhyme is a popular bedtime story. Children love joining in the 'reading' and exploring the lively illustrations.



Hairy Maclary from Donaldson's Dairy. Lynley Dodd. (series)

Beloved by all, this is the first of the many adventures of Hairy Maclary, the mischievous shaggy dog and his animal friends. Children from babies to early school agers respond to the rhyming, alliterative and cumulative verse and the amusing illustrations; the interesting language enriches their vocabulary. Other titles include, **Hairy Maclary Scattercat**; **Hairy Maclary's Bone**; **Hairy Maclary and Zachary Quack**.



Toddle Waddle. Julia Donaldson, illustrated by Nick Sharratt.

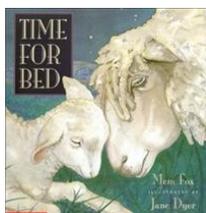
The bright, bold, uncluttered illustrations in this book are immediately attractive to children approaching their first birthday and the apt, descriptive language of the sparse text is just right for developing their vocabulary. The simple story of a toddler going for a walk followed by a growing line of animals and people will be in the 'read it again' category.



Ten Little Fingers and Ten Little Toes. Mem Fox, illustrated by Helen Oxenbury.

This endearing book is a great present for new parents. The illustrations depict babies from diverse backgrounds around the world and the rhythmic, rhyming text is a pleasure to read aloud.

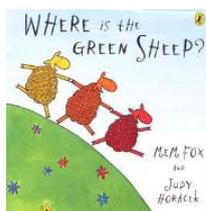
✓ **Australian Author**



Time for Bed. Mem Fox, illustrated by Jane Dyer.

Beautifully illustrated and poetically written, this gentle bedtime rhyme shows an interesting variety of baby animals being lulled to sleep before a child is tucked into bed.

✓ **Australian Author**

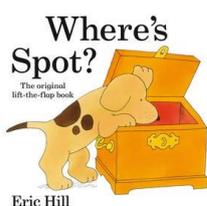


Where is the Green Sheep? Mem Fox, illustrated by Judy Horacek.

The simple repetitive text and amusing illustrations of this book are loved by toddlers and pre-schoolers. While exploring details in the pictures they learn about colours and concepts such as size and location.

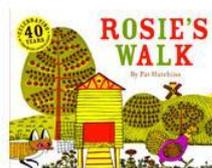
CBCA Book of the Year: Early Childhood, 2005

✓ **Australian Author and Illustrator**



Where's Spot. Eric Hill. (series)

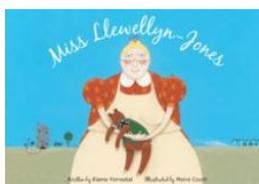
Babies from about 10 months old quickly master and delight in, lifting the flaps to help Sally, the mother dog search for her puppy. Simple, bold illustrations and straightforward text are appropriate for the intended audience. This original lift-the-flap book was first published in 1980 and is one of a series.



Rosie's Walk. Pat Hutchins.

Rosie the hen calmly strolls around the farmyard unaware of the dangerous fox and his troubles as he tries to catch her. With very few words and a story told largely through the illustrations, this book is not as simple as it seems. While Rosie remains oblivious to what is happening behind her, the reader is not, so there is a lot to observe, and talk and laugh about.

Awards: ALA (American Library Assoc.) Notable Book

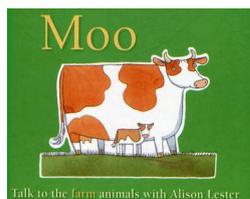


Miss Llewellyn-Jones. Elaine Forrester, illustrated by Moira Court.

Whenever Miss Llewellyn-Jones hangs out her washing the wind snatches it away carrying the items into unexpected places. With repetition in the plot, carefully-chosen sparse text and humour depicted through the large, stylised illustrations, this book is an ideal choice for toddlers through to beginning readers.

Awards: CBCA Notable, Early Childhood category,

✓ **WA author and Illustrator**

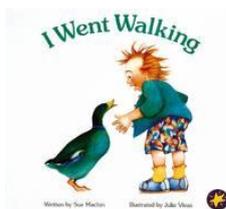


Moo. Alison Lester. (series)

A simple but interesting sentence, supported by an appealing illustration of an animal on each double-page spread, is an ideal format for a book for toddlers. Sentences follow a predictable rhythmic pattern and encourage children to respond with the appropriate animal sounds. The smaller than usual size of the books makes them just right for little hands turning the pages.

Other titles in the series **Roar; Purr**

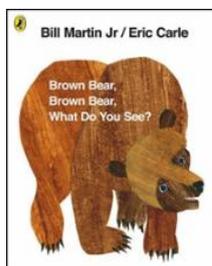
✓ **Australian Author/Illustrator**



I Went Walking. Sue Machin, illustrated by Julie Vivas.

As a little boy walks through the farmyard he meets numerous colourful animals, which all follow him. A simple repetitive text introduces children to colours and farm animals, while the imaginative illustrations encourage prediction.

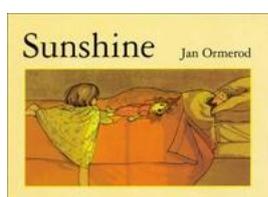
✓ **Australian Author and Illustrator**



Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You See? Bill Martin Jr and Eric Carle. (series)

Eric Carle's colourful and clear collage illustrations engage children's attention and introduce them to colours and animals in an interesting way. The simple repetitive question and answer format of the text encourages children to make predictions and participate in the reading.

Other titles in the series include, **Polar Bear, Polar Bear, What Do You Hear?** and **Panda Bear, What Do You See?**

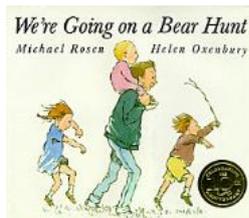


Sunshine. Jan Ormerod.

This wordless picture book, in clear sequential images shows morning activities in a household, including a little girl dressing herself when Mum goes back to sleep. Companion book: **Moonlight**.

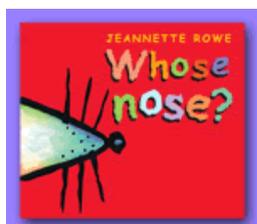
Awards: *CBCA Picture Book of the Year, 1982.*

✓ **WA author and Illustrator**



We're Going on a Bear Hunt. Retold by Michael Rosen, illustrated by Helen Oxenbury.

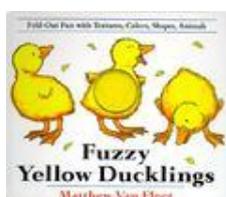
Based on an American nursery rhyme, this story about a family going for a walk through all sorts of obstacles is ideal for dramatizing. Children from toddlers to early school age respond to the descriptive, rhythmic language and the hint of danger in the expressive illustrations. A book to be treasured for many years.



Whose Nose? Jeanette Rowe. (series)

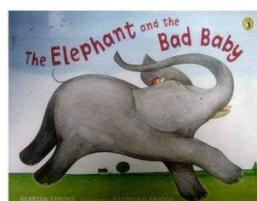
Simple, bold and bright illustrations invite babies and toddlers to lift the large, easy-to-handle flaps to see the animal that belongs to the nose shown on the page. Great for developing early visual discrimination. Series includes, **Whose Eyes?; Whose Ears?; Whose Feet?; Whose Wings?; Whose Family?; Whose House?**

✓ **Australian Author/Illustrator**



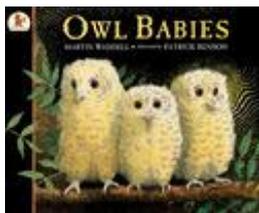
Fuzzy Yellow Ducklings. Matthew Van Fleet.

This appealing interactive book contains different textures to touch, teaches colours and shapes and reveals an animal surprise when children lift the flaps.

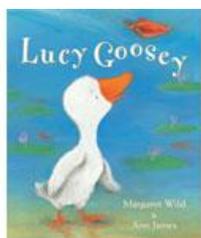


The Elephant and the Bad Baby. Elfrida Vipont, illustrated by Raymond Briggs.

A naughty baby runs away on an elephant and collects food treats as the pair go. '*rumpeta rumpeta rumpeta all down the road*', followed by an increasingly long line of angry shopkeepers. This imaginative and amusing story captivates young children, who love 'reading' the refrain, and exploring details of the pictures. Meanwhile, they are reminded of the importance of saying, 'please'.



Owl Babies by Martin Waddell, illustrated by Patrick Benson. Three baby owls express their fears as they anxiously wait for their mother to return from hunting. The unforgettable, evocative illustrations combine with a lyrical text that is perfect for reading aloud, to make this a not-to-be missed picture book for early childhood.



Lucy Goosey. Margaret Wild, illustrated by Ann James. Lucy Goosey hides because she is afraid of getting lost in the sky when it is time to migrate. However, her mother finds her baby and is able to reassure her. Told in lyrical language and supported by appealing illustrations that capture the mood, this gentle story is ideal to read to young children from about 2 years onwards.

Awards: Honour Book CBCA Book of the Year: Early Childhood.

✓ **Australian Author and Illustrator**

NOTE: These titles are available through your local library or good bookshop. If you have trouble locating any of the books try searching for them online. School fêtes and second-hand book shops can also be useful sources of quality children's books.



Babies introduced to books from birth acquire an early love of books and reading; and quickly develop their literacy skills.