THE BASICS™: BOOKS FOR LITTLE ONES

Science shows that 80% of brain growth happens by age three! Young brains develop like little muscles. They get bigger and stronger with more interaction. The Basics are five fun, simple, and powerful ways to help all our children grow to be happy and smart. It’s never too early to start reading with your child! Try the books below or ask a librarian for recommendations. For more information on the Basics, as well as tips for reading with little ones, visit www.thebasics.org.

Maximize Love, Minimize Stress

Crunch the Shy Dinosaur by Cirocco Dunlap
Don’t Blink! by Amy Krouse Rosenthal
Jabari Jumps by Gaia Cornwall
My Heart Fills With Happiness by Monique Gray Smith
The Rabbit Listened by Cori Doerrfeld
The Shape of My Heart by Mark Sperring
We Don’t Eat Our Classmates by Ryan T. Higgins

Talk, Sing and Point

The Bear Ate Your Sandwich by Julia Sarcone-Roach
Grandma’s Purse by Vanessa Brantley-Newton
Hip-Hop Lollipop by Susan Montanari
Jazz Baby by Lisa Wheeler
Kat Writes a Song by Greg Foley
The Library Song by Tom Chapin
The Word Collector by Peter Hamilton Reynolds

Count, Group and Compare

100 Bugs! A Counting Book by Kate Narita
Billions of Bricks by Kurt Cyrus
Count the Monkeys by Mac Barnett
Crash! Boom! A Math Tale by Robie H. Harris
Dreaming Up: A Celebration of Building by Christy Hale
Let’s Count Goats by Mem Fox
Triangle by Mac Barnett

Explore through Movement and Play

It’s a Tiger by David LaRochelle
Nino Wrestles the World by Yuyi Morales
Play this Book by Jessica Young
Sam and Dave Dig a Hole by Mac Barnett
Tap the Magic Tree by Christie Matheson
They All Saw a Cat by Brendan Wenzel
Tickle Monster by Edouard Manceau

Read and Discuss Stories

Baby Monkey Private Eye by Brian Selznick and David Serlin
Du Iz Tak? by Carson Ellis
Dreamers by Yuyi Morales
A Parade of Elephants by Kevin Henkes
A Perfect Day by Lane Smith
The Summer Nick Taught His Cats to Read by Curtis Manley
Thank You, Omu by Oge Mora