



The Flourish Federation

Brookfield Infant School's Reading Spine

EYFS Reading Spine

Welcome to the EYFS Reading Spine



What is our Reading Spine?

Our Reading Spine is list of standout books we believe children should be exposed to over and over again to help children develop their reading and writing, but most importantly, cultivate a love for reading!

How do we select our Reading Spine books?

We used Pie Corbett's Reading Spine (the guru of Talk for Writing) as a base list of books. We then worked together as a teaching team to select key texts which we have used to successfully teach different key components of reading and writing. They may be fantastic at character descriptions, paint beautiful settings in our mind, support the development of expression, inspire our imaginations or are reads that we love and decided simply couldn't be missed.

How do we use the Reading Spine in school?

Each classroom has a copy of our Book Spine texts and these are shared with the children again and again throughout the year. We pull books for our Talk for Writing from our spine books too, linking them by text type.

For example, choosing a focus journey story and supporting alternative journey texts to explore. From these, the children can imitate, innovate and invent their own pieces. Each year, we revisit which spine books we use for writing based on the needs and interest of the classes. There are also copies of all of our spine books in the school library for children to enjoy.

How can you use the Reading Spine?

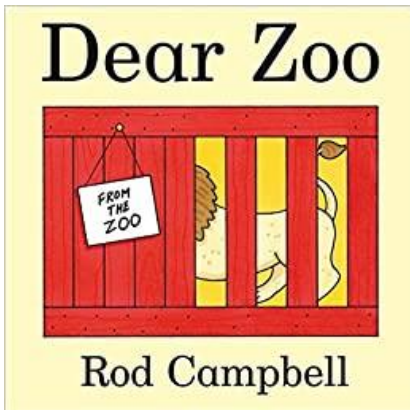
Use our Reading Spine as a handy guide of books to have at home. Share these regularly and enjoy them! As children get older, they will be able to read the books for themselves, but you reading to them and sharing your love of reading is just as important! Struggling with Christmas or Birthday ideas? Why not share this list with friends and family and ask them to buy a book from the list as a gift!



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Dear Zoo

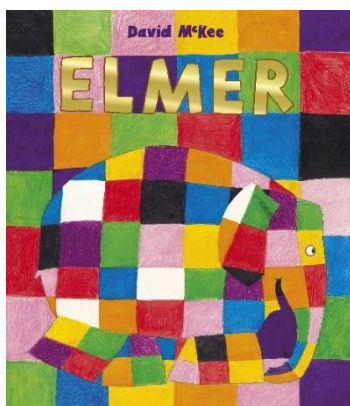
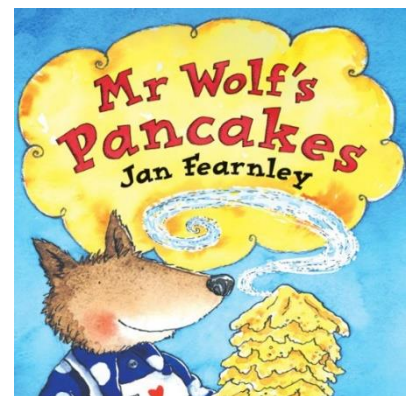
Rod Campbell

This book is a gateway into learning about different animals. The repetition of 'so' will add a new conjunction to a child's repertoire. Discuss the reasons for sending the animals back - heavy, fragile, tall, dangerous, fierce, grumpy, 'with care', scary, naughty, jumpy and perfect.

Mr Wolf's Pancakes

Jan Fearnley

Mr Wolf wants to make pancakes but is unable to read the recipe book, write the names of the ingredients or count the money to buy them. His neighbours are unwilling to help him, but are soon lured by the delicious smell of pancakes when he successfully completes his task



Elmer

David McKee

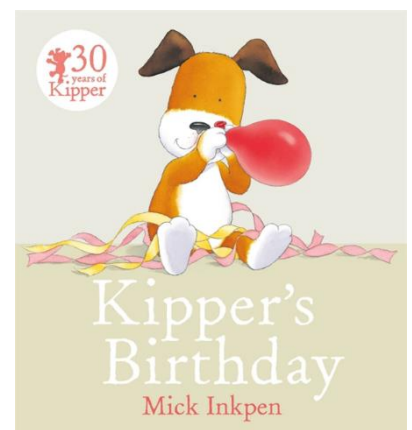
Elmer teaches us that everyone has something unique to bring the table and there's no point trying to disguise your true self. Always be yourself, especially if you are a multicoloured elephant.

Kipper's Birthday

Mick Inkpen

In this story it's Kipper's birthday and he delivers invitations to his birthday party. But there is some confusion about the day - which is today and which is tomorrow?

Very relatable to children getting ready for their own birthdays and a lovely link to learning early time maths!





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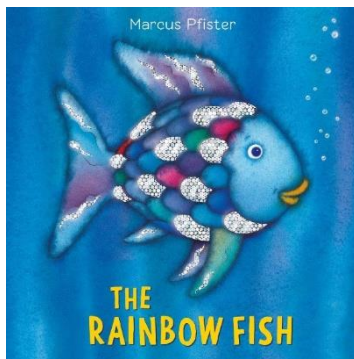
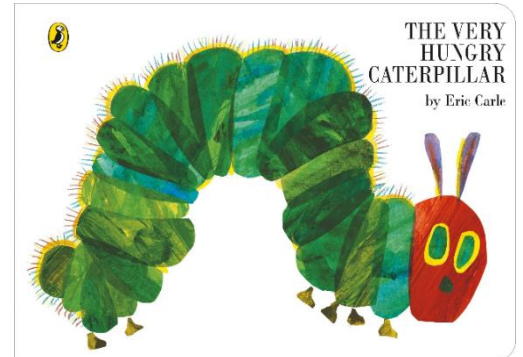
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The Very Hungry Caterpillar

Eric Carle

This well-loved story not only has numerous maths links with counting, the days of the week and day/night references, it also teaches children about healthy eating alongside the beautifully illustrated life cycle of a butterfly. A must have on any early bookshelf.



The Rainbow Fish

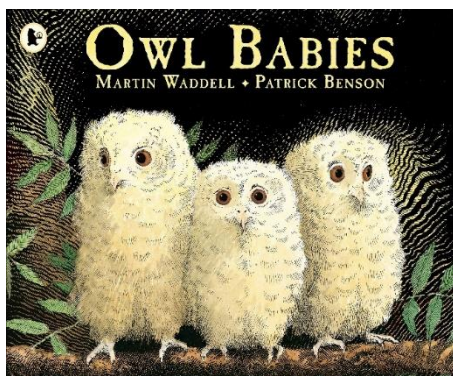
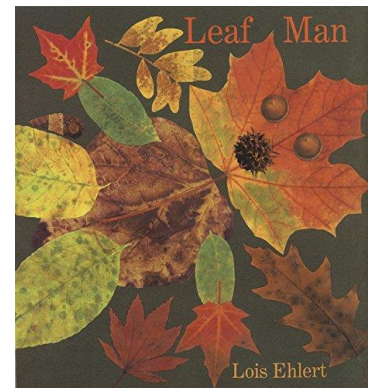
Marcus Pfister

The Rainbow Fish is the story of a beautiful, colourful, and shiny fish with metallic scales that lives in the sea. Rainbow Fish loves his scales so much; he does not want to share them when asked by a blue fish. A friendship tale about sharing and the value of being an individual.

Leaf Man

Lois Ehlert

This beautiful journey picture books tells the story of Autumn, with the gusting wind blowing leaves into different shapes and creatures. With inspiring art link, encourage children to make their own leaf creations on an autumnal walk.



Owl Babies

Martin Waddell & Patrick Benson

A wishing tale - one night three owlets wake up to find their mother gone. Will she return? This book offers a safe and secure opportunity to explore separation anxiety and the worries that children naturally experience.



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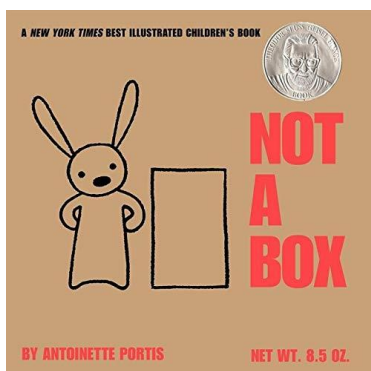
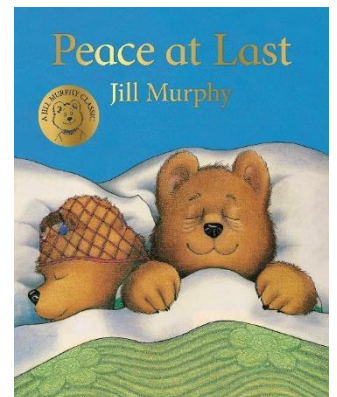
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Peace at Last

Jill Murphy

Ask the children: What is peace? Make a list of peaceful times. You might need to explain 'snore' before reading the book! Why can Mr Bear not sleep? Make a list of all the noises he can hear. Turn this into a list poem and add other ideas. For example: At night, I hear the cats fighting outside. I can hear the buses driving by. I hear the kitchen tap dripping.



Not a Box

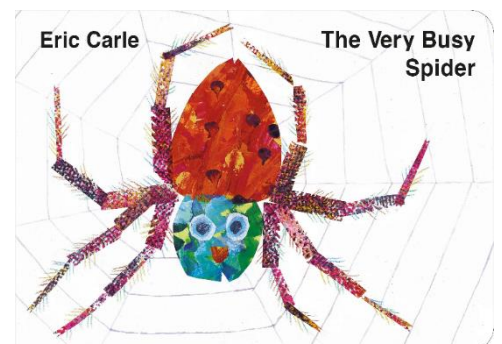
Antoinette Portis

A transformation story - inspired by a memory of sitting in a box on her driveway with her sister, the story captures the thrill when pretend feels so real that it actually becomes real—when the imagination takes over inside a cardboard box, and a child is transported to a world where anything is possible. A book to inspire play.

The Very Busy Spider

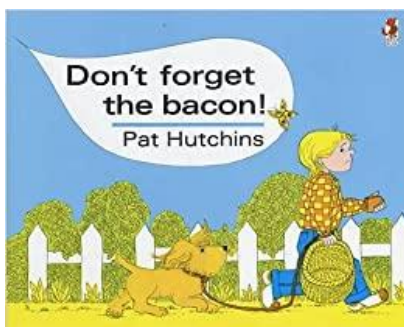
Eric Carle

A quest story - a spider begins to spin a web. All the animals try to persuade her to stop her spinning and go for a ride, a run or a roll in the mud. Spider doesn't answer any of them; she is too busy spinning her web.



Don't forget the bacon!

Pat Hutchins



bacon!"

The story is a cumulative rhyming story about a little boy who leaves his home with his dog to shop for food items for his mother, and attempts to remember the grocery list of things she wanted him to buy. The original request from his mother is "six farm eggs, a cake for tea, a pound of pears, and don't forget the



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We're Going on a Bear Hunt

Michael Rosen Helen Oxenbury



We're Going on a Bear Hunt

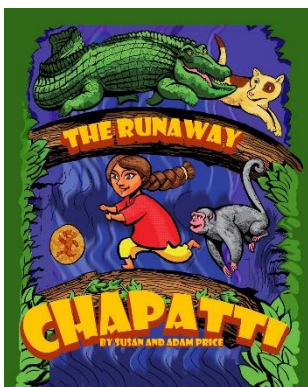
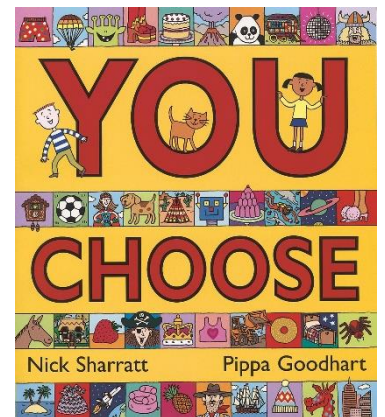
Michael Rosen & Helen Oxenbury

A classic! Learn the story orally and act it out around the house or outside. The captivating vocabulary will mean children want to listen again and again. Look at the different places and invent other onomatopoeic phrases (swishy swashy). Where else could you go on a hunt? What/ who are you hunting for?

You Choose

Nick Sharratt & Pippa Goodhart

This classic book is good to share many times. Imagine you could go anywhere, with anyone and do anything. Where would you live? Where would you sleep? Who would be your friends? What games would you play? Go on... *you choose!* With the help of Nick Sharratt's wonderfully detailed illustrations, Pippa Goodhart looks at a whole range of scenarios where children build their own stories.



The Runaway Chapatti

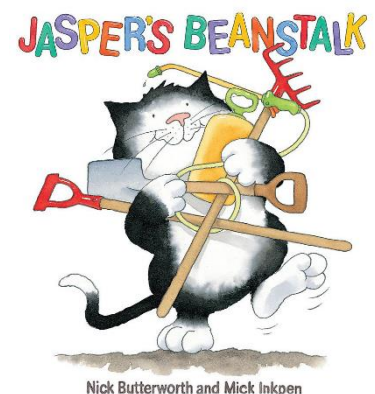
Susan & Adam Price

A simple alternative version of the Gingerbread Man linking to different cultures. A good starting point to show children how stories can be adapted and changed with setting and characters.

Jasper's Beanstalk

Nick Butterworth & Mick Inkpen

Similar to the structure of *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* where a story is built around the days of the week. Read this in the Spring when you can grow some beanstalks - and tell the children the slightly scary story of 'Jack and the Beanstalk'. Discuss what happens at the end of this story - and then decide with the children what happens to Jasper at the top of the beanstalk

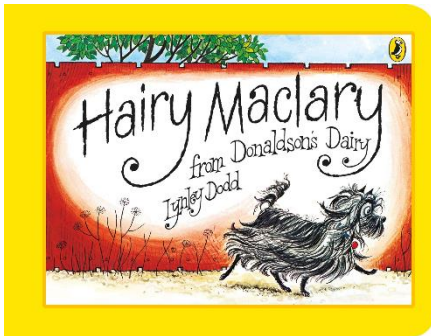




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Hairy Maclary from Donaldson's Dairy

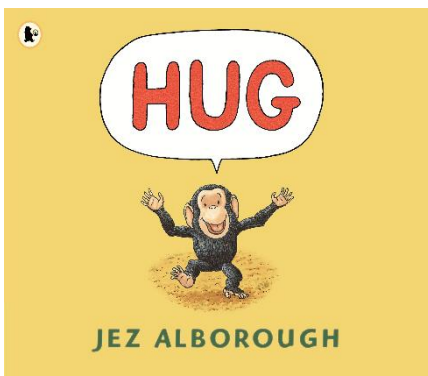
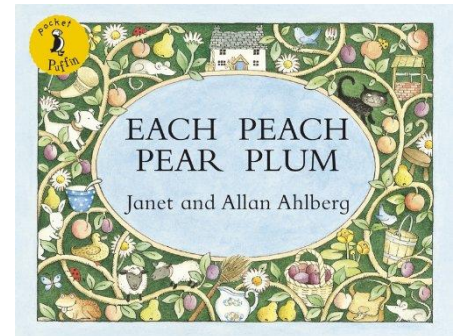
Lynley Dodd

Read this story again and again with your child joining in and savouring the rhymes. Ask: Which is the favourite dog? Who is the least favourite? Try inventing other similes instead of 'as big as a horse', for example, 'as big as a car'!

Each Peach Pear Plum

Janet & Allan Ahlberg

Read together and look carefully at each picture. This lovely book introduces characters from well-known nursery stories, such as the Three Bears, Mother Hubbard and Tom Thumb, and encourages children to participate and to find the characters hidden in the pictures. Tell your child the stories or rhymes behind each of the characters.



Hug

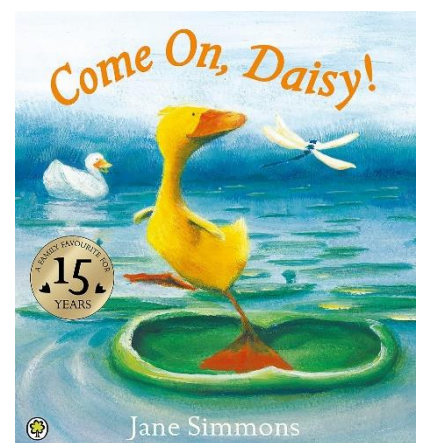
Jez Alborough

Like, Owl Babies, this is another losing a mother story. Like a wordless book, the story unfolds through a series of expressive pictures rather than language. Alborough makes clear the chimp's distress as he tries to communicate with only the repeated word "HUG".

Come On, Daisy!

Jane Simmons

Another losing mother story as Daisy forgets to stay close and goes chasing dragonflies. Some children might have noticed by now the question marks in certain book titles and here we are now with an exclamation mark as well! Track Daisy's feelings through the book. Emphasise the 'but' connecting word when reading with your child joining in.





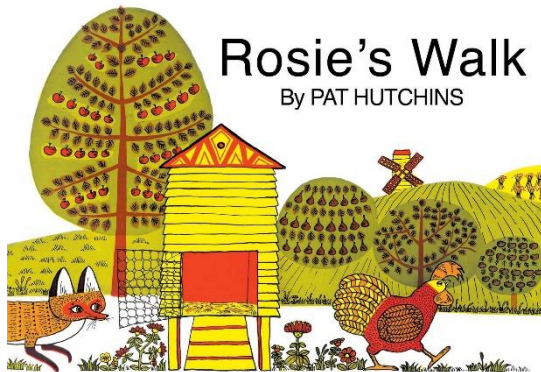
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Rosie's Walk

Pat Hutchins

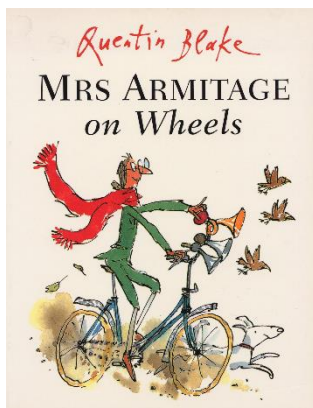
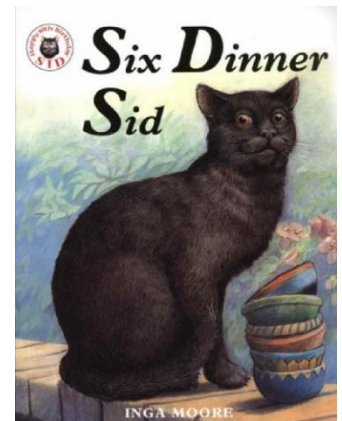


This is a clever book. Try reading it to your child without looking at the pictures. Then show the book and enjoy the slapstick. Ask: Is Rosie clever or is the fox silly? Pick up on any design or pattern that interests the children and imitate with crayons or paints. Draw the map, notice the prepositions (above, below) and create new journeys with a fierce animal following!

Six Dinner Sid

Inga Moore

It would be worth talking about pets and the vet before starting the story. Then read and enjoy the beautiful art work. Persuasive and a charmer Sid has wrapped everybody round his little paw - each owner believes that Sid belongs to them only . . . until the day he is found out! Ask: Why would the cat want six dinners? Why don't the neighbour talk to each other?



Mrs Armitage on Wheels

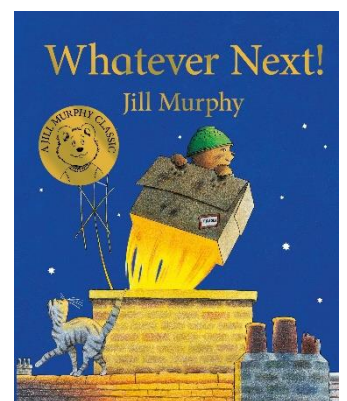
Quentin Blake

Oh, the joy of Mrs Armitage! Read and chant the story together. Mrs Armitage sets off for a quiet cycle with her faithful dog, Breakspear, but she just can't help thinking of ways to improve her bicycle. Discuss the pictures and words and add your own sound effects. Ask: What would you add to your bike?

Whatever Next!

Jill Murphy

The moon and back before bedtime? Whatever next! Join Baby Bear as he finds a rocket, makes friends with an owl and has a picnic on the moon! A beautiful story of innocence and imagination, full of warmth and humour, Whatever Next! is the second Bear family adventure following Peace at Last.

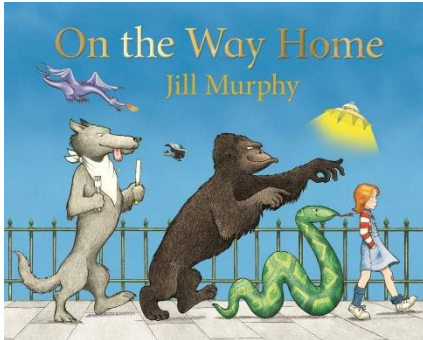




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On the Way Home

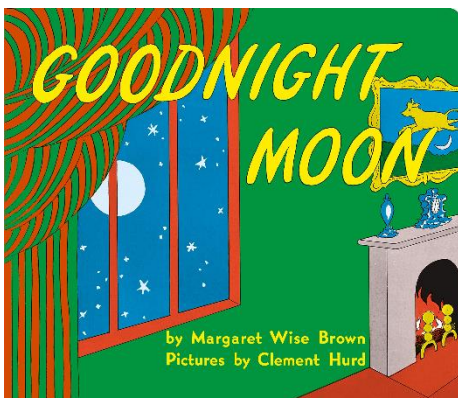
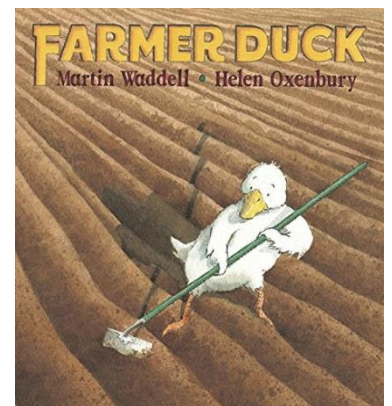
Jill Murphy

Look carefully at the front cover and ask: What do we think is going to happen in the story? Claire has hurt her knee so she sets off home to tell her mum all about it. On the way she meets her friends and tells them each a different story on how she got her scrape. Playful and creative, this is a fantastic journey of the imagination that every child can relate to.

Farmer Duck

Martin Waddell

This is the story of a hardworking duck, who has the very bad luck of living with a lazy farmer. The duck cooks and cleans, tends the fields and cares for all the other animals on the farm - and all while the farmer lies in bed! A charming tale helps children to learn the value of teamwork and caring for one another.



Goodnight Moon

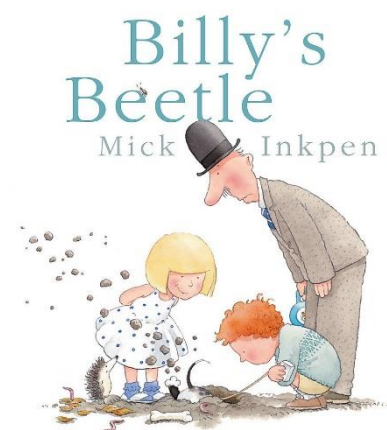
Margaret Wise Brown

What other stories have a moon in them? (Owl Babies, Where the Wild Things Are, Can't You Sleep Little Bear?). This is a gentle and comforting story for the end of the day. You can create your own verbal adaption saying goodnight to the things in your child's bedroom.

Billy's Beetle

Mick Inkpen

A losing a finding tale - Billy has lost his little beetle and enlists a whole motley crew of people and animals to help him find it. The fun is made even greater by pull out pages and children will enjoy spotting the wayward beetle on every page.





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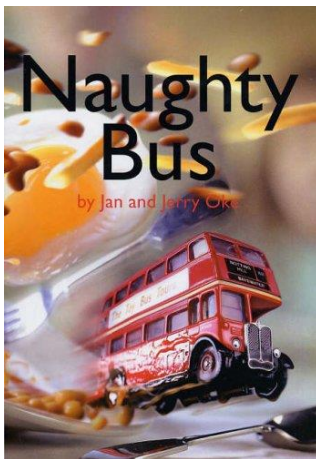
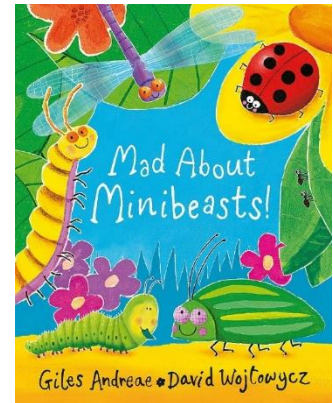
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Mad About Minibeasts

Giles Andreae & David Wojtowycz

This brilliantly beastly bouncy rhyming romp will delight all readers. From slugs and snails to bustling beetles and beautiful butterflies these rhymes are full of humour and great to read aloud. A lovely link to understanding the world around us.



The Naughty Bus

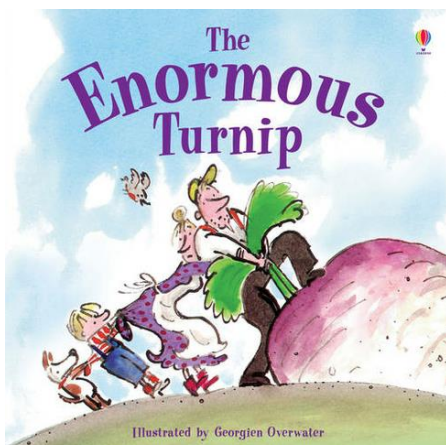
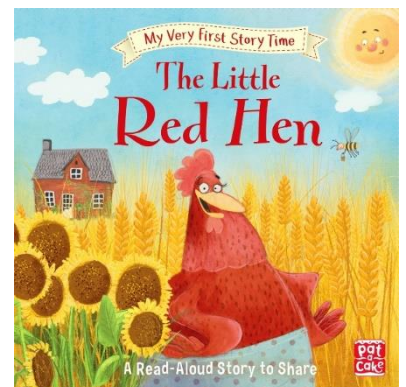
Jan and Jerry Oke

This is a transport themed journey story where a bright red toy London bus gets into all sorts of mischief: playing with other toys, making a mess in the house and exploring the garden. The masterful photographs illustrating the tale are shot from a child's perspective, getting you down onto the floor with the naughty bus and encouraging imagination and creative play.

The Little Red Hen

Various authors

A cautionary tale about how we reap what we sow. The Little Red Hen asks her farmyard friends to help grow her wheat but she gets no takers. Easily adapted by changing the characters and the bread!



The Enormous Turnip

Various authors

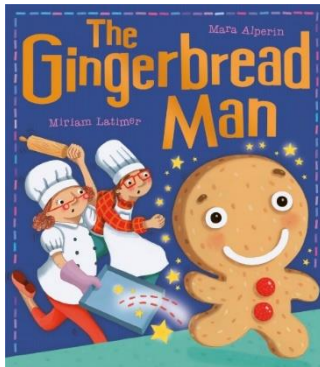
A cumulative story about a man pulling up a turnip. How many people will it take? Repetitive language makes this a fun story for children to retell.



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The Gingerbread Man

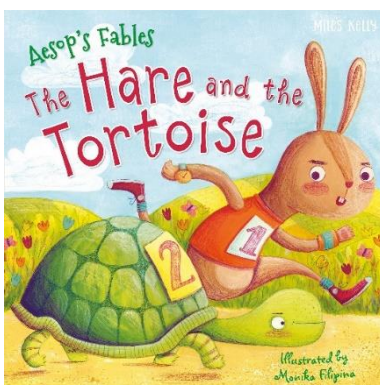
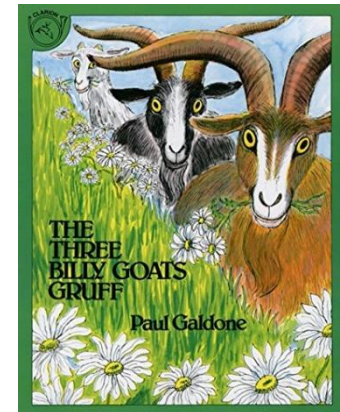
Various authors

A family favourite with the well-known repetitive phrasing. This cumulative story can be easily adapted with the setting and characters or even by finding an alternative ending.

The Three Billy Goats Gruff

Various authors

A warning story which children love. The sing song repeated verses are great to help children use flow and expression. A good story to talk about the beginning, middle and end as you order the simple events.



The Hare and the Tortoise

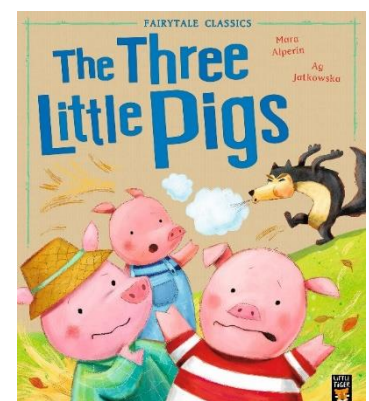
Various authors

With the moral of slow and steady wins the race, this story teaches children to take their time rather than acting quickly and carelessly. It also open discussion about not being over confident and thinking you are better than someone else.

The Three Little Pigs

Various authors

A classic beating the baddie tale which children can get really involved in. Get them to act out when the wolf is huffing and puffing and the little pigs' response to introduce them to early expression. Beautiful story language from Once upon a time, to never seen again.





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The Ugly Duckling

Various authors

A fairy tale with the moral lesson for people to accept themselves for who they truly are. It tells the story of a newly hatched duckling that is rejected by others in the animal kingdom for not looking like the other ducks. A reminder to not judge other by appearances and a good link to discussion around kindness to all.

