

Top reads
(A-Z order)

Title	Author	Synopsis	Objectives	Themes of interest
Avocado Baby	John Burningham	The Hargraves want their new baby to grow up big and strong. But the puny mite will hardly eat a thing. One day Mrs Hargraves finds an avocado in the fruit bowl and the baby gobbles it up. Soon, the strangest things start to happen...	Link to healthy lifestyles (eating and exercise), descriptive language, link to families	Food, families, babies, keeping healthy, growing up, superheroes
Can't you sleep, little bear?	Martin Waddell	It's bedtime, and Little Bear can't get to sleep. He's frightened of the dark, the dark all around, which not even Big Bear's largest lantern can light up. Big Bear finds a way to show Little Bear that there is no need to be afraid.	Link to healthy lifestyles and routines (importance of sleep), link to knowledge of light and dark/night and day, link to fears and emotions associated with this, repetitive phrase to allow the children to join in and predict	Bears, families, light and dark
Cloudy with a chance of meatballs	Judi Barrett	If food dropped like rain from the sky, wouldn't it be marvellous! Or would it? It could, after all, be messy. And you'd have no choice. What if you didn't like what fell? Or what if too much came? Have you ever thought of what it might be like to be squashed flat by a pancake?	Imaginative, promotes lots of opportunities for 'what if...' discussions, link to where we source food and why food is important to us	Food
Don't let the pigeon drive the bus	Mo Willems	When a bus driver takes a break from his route, a very unlikely volunteer springs up to take his place-a pigeon! The pigeon pleads, wheedles, and begs his way through the book.	Opportunities for joining in and predictions, humour, 'what if...' discussions to promote imagination	Animals, transport
Goodnight Moon	Margaret Wise Brown	In a great green room, tucked away in bed, is a little bunny. "Goodnight room, goodnight moon." And to all the familiar things in the softly lit room – to the picture of the three little bears sitting on chairs, to the clocks and his socks, to the mittens and the kittens, to everything one by one – the little bunny says goodnight.	Rhyme, daily routines, importance of sleep in healthy lifestyles, finding the mouse on each page in the illustrations, link to 'I spy'/being aware of what is around us in our surroundings	Families
Gorilla	Anthony Browne	Hannah spends all of her time reading gorilla books, watching gorilla TV shows, and drawing gorilla pictures. She has gorillas on her bedside lamp and even on her box of cereal. Hannah loves gorillas and longs to see a real one, but her father is always too busy - or too tired - to take her to the zoo. Then, on the night before her birthday, something extraordinary happens - and Hannah's wish comes true.	Link to celebrations (birthdays), link to PSED emotions (excitement, disappointment, sadness and loneliness), link to things that are important to us and that we all have different likes and dislikes	Birthdays, animals, things that are important to us
Gruffalo	Julia Donaldson	A little mouse walking through the woods encounters a series of would-be predators, but he scares them off by telling them that he's on his way to meet a fierce gruffalo ("His eyes are orange. His tongue is black. He has purple	Rhyme, repetitive phrases allowing the children to join in, repetitive structure allowing the children to make predictions.	Woods, animals, rhyme

		prickles all over his back.") But after escaping a fox, an owl, and a snake, the mouse actually comes face to face with the creature from his imagination.		
Harry and the bucketful of dinosaurs	Ian Whybrow	Harry finds some old dinosaurs in his Grandma's attic. He cleans them up and makes them his own, carefully (and accurately) naming each one. Harry and his dinosaurs go everywhere together. But one day, after an exciting train ride, Harry accidentally leaves the dinosaurs on the train.	Link to things that are important to us, toys, taking care of things, imagination vs reality.	Dinosaurs, toys, about us
Not now Bernard	David McKee	Bernard's got a problem. He's found a monster in the back garden, but his mom and dad are just too busy to notice. So Bernard tries to befriend the monster. . . and that doesn't go quite to plan.	Repetition allowing children to join in and predict, link to problem solving and solutions.	Monsters, families,
Owl Babies	Martin Waddell	This is the story of three baby owls who wake up one night in their hole in the tree to find that their mother has gone, so they sit on the branch and wait, wondering when she will return. At last she does, and they all bounce up and down with joy, welcoming her home.	Families – roles of parents, PSED-emotions, some repetitive language to assist predictions, discuss differences between night and day, nocturnal animals, different animal homes.	Birds, animals, nature, families
Peace at Last	Jill Murphy	The hour was late and Mr Bear was tired. But he could not sleep - however he tried and wherever he tried. SNORE, SNORE went Mrs Bear. TICK-TOCK, TICK-TOCK went the clock. Would he never get to sleep?	Introduce sounds that we can hear around us, repetition allows the children to join in and make predictions, importance of sleep in keeping healthy.	Bears, families, noises
The cat in the hat	Dr Seuss	Poor Sally and her brother. It's cold and wet and they're stuck in the house with nothing to do . . . until a giant cat in a hat shows up, transforming the dull day into a madcap adventure and almost wrecking the place in the process!	Rhyme, repetition allowing children to join in and recite with ease.	Cats
The day the crayons quit	Drew Daywalt	Poor Duncan just wants to colour. But when he opens his box of crayons, he finds only letters, all saying the same thing: We quit! Beige is tired of playing second fiddle to Brown. Blue needs a break from colouring all that water, while Pink just wants to be used. Green has no complaints, but Orange and Yellow are no longer speaking to each other.	Personification, message is if you are unhappy or feel mistreated then speak up so people know and can help you change it, link with PSED – handling emotions.	Letter writing, art
The very hungry caterpillar	Eric Carle	As the newborn caterpillar snacks through the pages (leaving behind a hole to stick a little finger through), he gets bigger, fatter, and turns into a lovely butterfly with wings the colour of Swiss cheese, oranges, and cherry pie!	Teaches days of the week, introduces the lifecycle of a butterfly in a fun, interactive way	Life cycles, new life, food, bugs

<p>We're going on a bear hunt</p>	<p>Michael Rosen</p>	<p>In this repetitive story, the reader is taken along on a family's hunt for a bear. Walking through the grass, wading through a river, and pushing through a snowstorm are only a few of the obstacles they must overcome (each with their own sounds) in order to make it to the bear's cave.</p>	<p>Repetitive language allowing the children to join in, use of onomatopoeia, building of suspense throughout the story to engage the children</p>	<p>Bears, adventures, nature</p>
<p>Where the Wild Things Are</p>	<p>Maurice Sendak</p>	<p>One night Max puts on his wolf suit and makes mischief of one kind and another, so his mother calls him 'Wild Thing' and sends him to bed without his supper. That night a forest begins to grow in Max's room and an ocean rushes by with a boat to take Max to the place where the wild things are. Max tames the wild things and crowns himself as their king, and then the wild rumpus begins. But when Max has sent the monsters to bed, and everything is quiet, he starts to feel lonely and realises it is time to sail home to the place where someone loves him best of all.</p>	<p>Imagination, PSED emotions, 'what if...' discussions</p>	<p>Monsters, adventures</p>