



Welcome to KDL's early literacy newsletter!

For fun early literacy activities that help kids get ready to read, check out our [website](#).

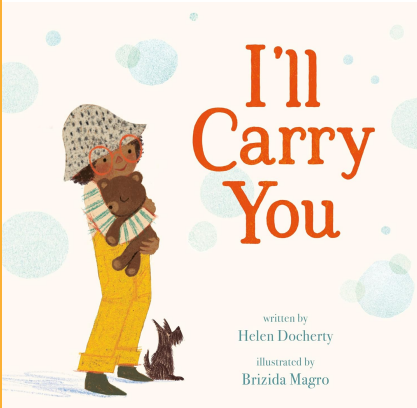
Get started reading and learning together with our simple and easy [1KB4K program](#).

View and print our [2025 Early Literacy Calendar](#).

Explore the five ways to help make a CHILD GROW SMARTER

LOVE

MAXIMIZE LOVE MANAGE STRESS



[I'll Carry You](#) by Helen Docherty and Brizida Magro is a heartwarming story about the power of love. The gentle words show how love lifts us up, keeps us going and brings comfort in every season of life. The glowing illustrations add warmth and tenderness to every page.

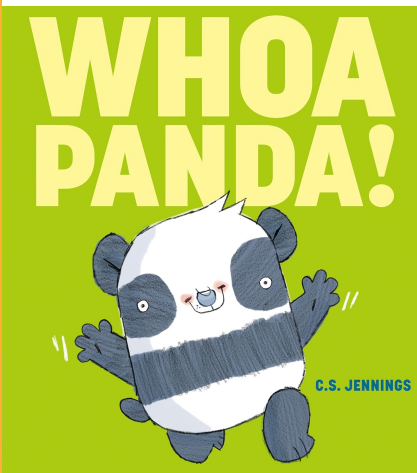
After reading *I'll Carry You*, ask your child to think of a time when someone helped them feel safe or loved. Then draw a picture together that shows that moment and talk about how love can carry us through different times.

For more books on love, check out [All That You Are](#) by Smriti Prasadam-Halls and Chaaya Prabhat, [Kisses Are Invisible](#) by Dee Romito and Jen White and [We're Different and It's Totally Cool!](#) by Camey Yeh.



TALK

SING AND POINT



If you're looking for a fun way to talk about manners with your child, read on for the perfect story to share! *[Whoa Panda](#)* by C.S. Jennings is an adorable and engaging book about a panda who is just a little too excited to meet new friends, including the reader. Through Panda's over-the-top greetings, children learn about appropriate ways to greet new friends.

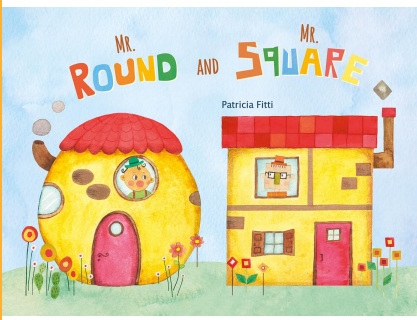
With its irresistible illustrations and simple, encouraging text, this playful picture book makes it easy to introduce the idea of personal boundaries. It's a wonderful starting point for conversations about how to greet others kindly, respect someone's space and even practice asking for space when needed.

If you are looking for other great stories about manners, check out these titles: [I Say Please and Thank You](#) by Rachel Isadora and Robie Rogge, [How Do Dinosaurs Show Good Manners?](#) by Jane Yolen and [Hippo Says "Excuse Me"](#) by Michael Dahl and Oriol Vidal.



COUNT

GROUP AND COMPARE



[Mr. Round and Mr. Square](#) by Patricia Fitti is a playful picture book about two neighbors who see the world through different lenses. Through their bantering, the reader is invited to see how both sides can be correct.

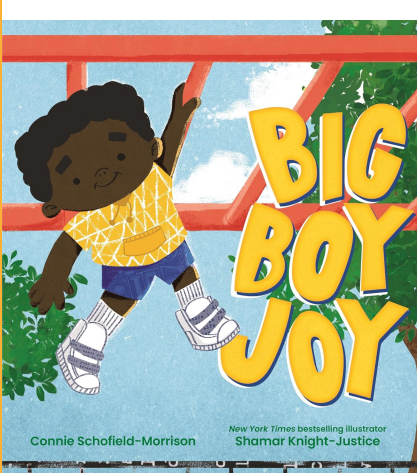
What seems near to Mr. Round may appear far away to Mr. Square. Each colorful page contrasts their perspectives, showing how the same object or scene can be described in different ways. This delightful concept book cleverly introduces shapes, opposites and spatial relations, all while offering a meaningful message about perspective and understanding.

Want a more hands-on way to explore counting and comparing? Check out these flip books and touch-and-feel favorites: [Ten Little Tractors](#) by Amanda Sobotka and James Newman Gray, [Big and Little: A Book of Animal Opposites](#) by Harriet Evans and Linda Tordoff and [Animal Countdown](#) by Laura Vaccaro Seeger.



PLAY

EXPLORE THROUGH MOVEMENT AND PLAY



Here's a story to celebrate the confidence and joy of being a big kid. In *[Big Boy Joy](#)* by Connie Schofield-Morrison and Shamar Knight-Justice, a young child uses all his energy to explore the playground. Brightly colored play words are featured on every page, reinforcing the theme of delight in moving and being in the world.

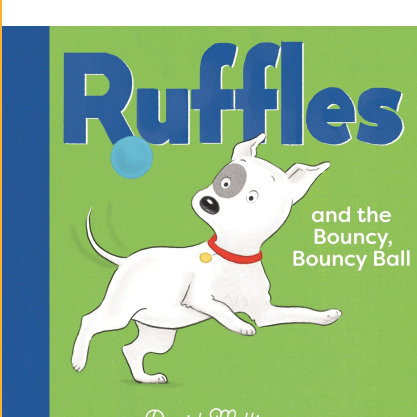
Narrated in first person, this joyful big boy practices playground friendship and the problem-solving skills that go along with that. As you read this story with the child in your life, talk about the ways they are growing and learning to do new things, like jumping really high or developing their imagination by pretending to be a dinosaur.

For more active play, try [Let's Rumble: A Rough-and-Tumble Book of Play](#) by Rachel G. Payne and Jose Pimienta, [Let's Go! Haw Ékwa!](#) by Julie Flett or [Touch the Sky](#) by Stephanie VW. Lucianovic and Chris Park.



READ

AND DISCUSS STORIES



[Ruffles and the Bouncy, Bouncy Ball](#) is the latest installment of David Melling's *[Ruffles](#)* picture book series. Ruffles adds a bouncy blue ball to the list of things he loves. . . but what happens when the ball goes missing? Readers will identify with Ruffles as he experiences disappointment and consolation.

As you read the story with the child in your life, try talking about the different vocabulary words introduced in the story. Ruffles loves a lot of things: howling, scratching, eating, fetching, sniffing, chewing, digging, running and sleeping, to name a few! Point out the picture of each activity and work together to understand the meaning of each word. The story also introduces great preposition words as Ruffles searches for his ball: Talk about the pictures that show Ruffles under, in and on different objects as you look for the blue ball with him.

For more books with words to talk about, try [Our Big Book of Words](#) by Tabitha Paige, [I Can Say Moo!](#) by Stephanie Cohen and [A Mischief of Mice](#) by Christie Matheson.



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