



Welcome to KDL's early literacy newsletter!

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

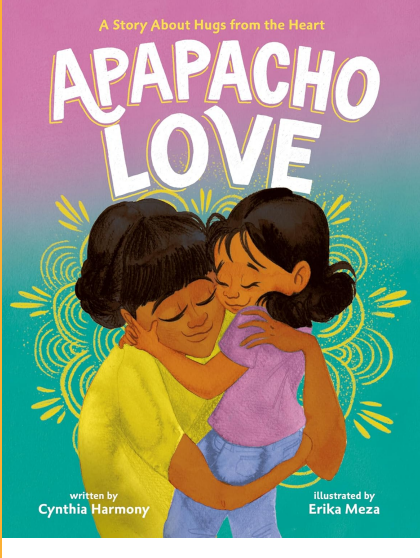
Get started reading and learning together with our simple and easy [1KB4K program](#).

View and print the [2026 Early Literacy Calendar](#). Español: [Calendario de Alfabetización Temprana](#).

## Explore the five ways to help make a CHILD GROW SMARTER



### MAXIMIZE LOVE MANAGE STRESS

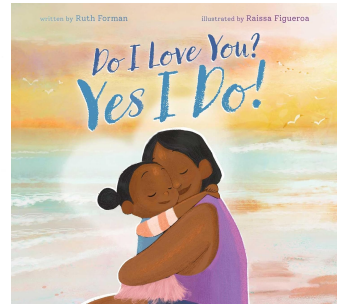
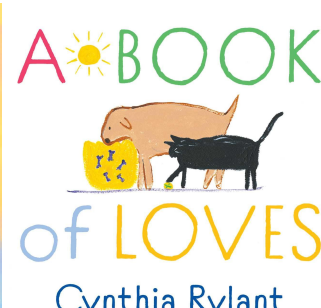


[Apapacho Love](#) by Cynthia Harmony and Erika Meza is a heartfelt picture book that celebrates the many ways love and family surround us every day. Young Luna learns that even when her Mami must travel far from home, the warmth of “apapacho” love stays close in her heart. The story gently shows how hugs from parents, grandparents, friends and even a loyal dog can bring comfort and connection.

This tender message makes the book a wonderful choice for families to read and share together. The vibrant, expressive illustrations fill each page with warmth, emotion and joy that perfectly match the story’s message. This beautiful book reminds readers of all ages that love never leaves us, no matter the distance.

After reading *Apapacho Love*, families can create an “apapacho hug chain” by tracing each family member’s hands on paper, decorating them and linking them together to show how everyone’s love connects. Encourage children to share who gives them the best hugs and what makes those hugs feel special. Hang the chain at home as a reminder that a family’s love is always close.

For more books on love, check out [Bread Is Love](#) by Pooja Makhijani and Lavanya Naidu, [A Book of Loves](#) by Cynthia Rylant and [Do I Love You? Yes I Do!](#) by Ruth Forman and Raissa Figueroa.



### SING AND POINT



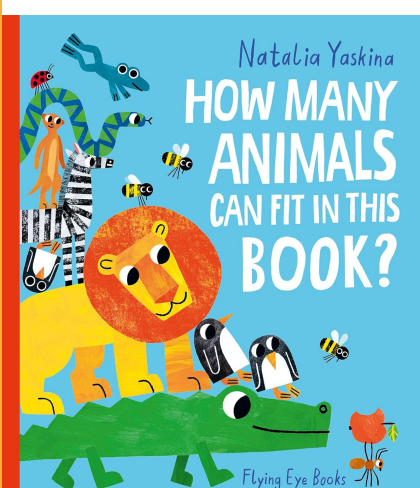
[The Flower Thief](#) by Alice Hemming and Nicola Slater explores the arrival of spring through Squirrel’s discovery of a flower. Convinced that others will ruin his beautiful new friend, he hides it from the world. Along the way, Squirrel learns what flowers need to thrive and that guarding his flower so closely may not be what’s best for it.

In this beautifully illustrated book, you and the little one in your life will experience the wonder that spring brings. Talk together about what Squirrel could do to help his flower flourish and consider the pros and cons of sharing something special with others.

If you enjoyed this story, here are some more titles for you to check out: [Just Flowers](#) by Erin Dealey and Kate Cosgrove, [In a Garden](#) by Tim McCanna and Aimée Sicuro and [What the Garden Tells Me](#) by Monica Mikai.



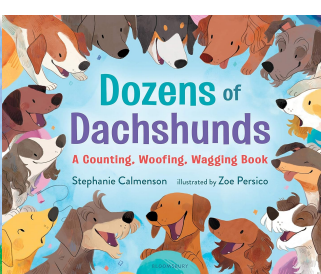
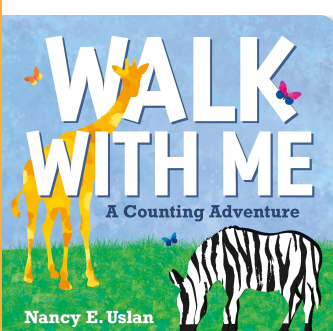
### GROUP AND COMPARE



[How Many Animals Can Fit in This Book?](#) by Natalia Yaskina follows a growing group of animals as they try to squeeze onto the pages of a book. The humor builds as the pages get more crowded with each turn, with even a tiny, grumpy ant feeling squeezed for space. This simple, playful setup naturally introduces young children to counting as they track how many animals appear.

Children also begin to understand concepts like more and less through the changing scenes of the book. The bright, engaging illustrations sustain interest and encourage interaction. This book is a great pick for caregivers who want to make early math fun and easy to grasp.

For more great books that focus on counting and observation, try [Walk with Me](#) by Nancy E. Uslan, [Dozens of Dachshunds](#) by Stephanie Calmenson and Zoe Persico, and [1, 2, 3, Can You Count Along?](#) by Alice Hemming and Nicola Slater.



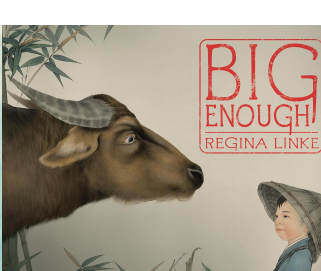
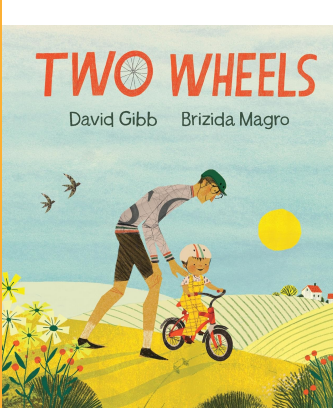
### EXPLORE THROUGH MOVEMENT AND PLAY



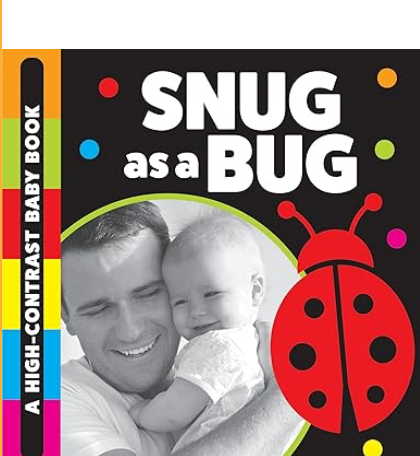
[Loops](#) by Jashar Awan is a new story of playful perseverance. Play can be frustrating when trying to do things that are tricky, and our narrator is wearing new red lace-up sneakers with “room to grow” that keep falling off his feet.

Yet with remarkable grace and patience, this kid isn’t going to let frustration get in the way of fun, and instead keeps repeating, “That’s okay, I’m still learning!” This story finishes with a fun twist that sends the reader looping back to the beginning for more, while modeling an admirable optimism when trying something new: “That could have been worse. Next time will be better!”

For more playful stories of learning to be a big kid, check out [Two Wheels](#) by David Gibb and Brizida Magro, [Big Enough](#) by Regina Linke or [Not Yet, Yeti](#) by Bethany V. Freitas and Maddie Frost.



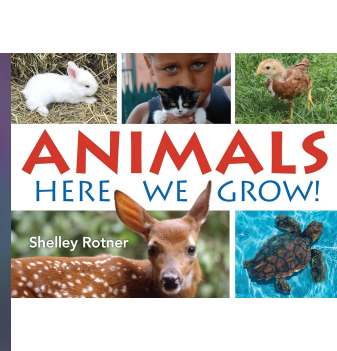
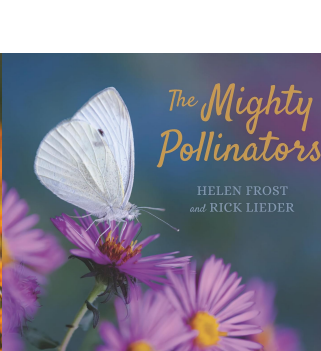
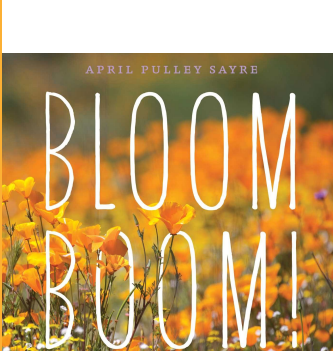
### AND DISCUSS STORIES



[Snug as a Bug](#) by Stephanie Meyers offers a high-contrast board book for the littlest readers. Showcasing descriptive, rhyming text alongside photos of children and caregivers, each page invites participation. Point out the photographs of children on the pages and talk about how their caregivers are interacting with them.

Books that feature photographs introduce the child in your life to people that look similar and different from them and objects that they recognize and ones that they are still learning the names for, helping to expand their knowledge of the world.

For more photographic books, check out [Bloom Boom!](#) by April Pulley Sayre, [The Mighty Pollinators](#) by Helen Frost and Rick Lieder, and [Animals: Here We Grow!](#) by Shelley Rotner.



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