

2025 Suggested Reading for Students Entering Kindergarten

This list was created by the youth librarians at Beebe Library to help you find a book you will enjoy. For information about your school's summer reading assignments, please contact your school.

Starting on **Monday, June 23**, you can stop by the Youth Desk at Beebe Library to **sign up for Summer at the Library 2025**. It's FREE to sign up and to participate in all of the summer programs and activities at the library. Learn more at wakefieldlibrary.org/summer

Want more recommendations? Please ask us! Happy reading!

Kat, Annie, Ariel, Heidi, & Holly, Youth Services Librarians

***Kindergarten: Where Kindness Matters Every Day* by Vera Ahiiya**

The first day of kindergarten is approaching and Leo, a shy boy, is not ready. He received a letter from his new teacher saying that his class would be making a kindness pledge and he should think about one thing he could do on the first day to show kindness. It turns out that Leo realizes that he is ready to be part of his class.

Children's Picture Book Ah

***The King of Kindergarten* by Derrick D. Barnes**

Starting kindergarten is a big milestone – and the hero of this story is ready to make his mark! The day will be jam-packed, but he's up to the challenge, taking new experiences in stride with his infectious enthusiasm!

Children's Picture Book Ba

***You Will Be My Friend!* by Peter Brown**

Lucy really wants to make a friend, but she is finding it much more difficult than she expected. She tried being helpful, she tried to fit in, she asked a lot of good questions, she invited other animals to be her friend, but nothing was working. Will she finally make a best friend?

Children's Picture Book Br

***Kindergarten Kids: Riddles, Rebuses, Wiggles, Giggles, and More* by Stephanie Calmenson**

Kindergarten Kids is a fun collection of poems, puzzles, rebuses and more that celebrate the kindergarten year in one classroom.

Children's Nonfiction 811 Calmenson

***Biscuit Goes to School* by Alyssa Satin Capucilli**

Biscuit the puppy has heard all about kindergarten. He knows that puppies aren't allowed in the classroom, but he really wants to see for himself what school is like.

Children's First Reader Capucilli

***Look Out Kindergarten, Here I Come!* by Nancy Carlson**

Today is finally the first day of kindergarten and Henry can't wait! But, when he arrives at school he is not sure he is ready. As the day goes on Henry realizes that he is not only ready, he's having fun!

Children's Picture Book Ca



***I Help* by Joe Cepeda**

When a boy finds a canteen in his garage he also finds his superpower—helping. Cepeda writes fun books for very new readers.

Children's First Reader Cepeda

***Pete the Cat and Pete the Kitty* series by James and Kimberly Dean**

The coolest cat and kitty have some exciting adventures around home and even in space as they make friends and have fun. A good early reader series.

Children's First Reader Dean

***Dory Fantasmagory* series by Abby Hanlon**

Dory is a 6-year-old who doesn't want to grow up. The youngest in the family, she really wants her brother and sister to include her in their activities, but they treat her like a baby. So, she uses her amazing imagination and charm to create wild adventures. The series is an excellent family read-aloud providing lots of laughs and opportunities to talk to your new kindergartener.

Children's Early Chapter Hanlon

***Wemberly Worried* by Kevin Henkes**

Wemberly worries about everything. She's starting school and that makes her *very* worried. This is a charming book to start a discussion if there's a worrywart in your family.

Children's Picture Book He

***Happy Cat* by Steve Henry**

With three-word sentences and lovely visual cues, *Happy Cat* is a good first reader. A cold and hungry cat jumps through a basement window and he meets Rat, who invites him upstairs. As they walk up, Cat meets the neighbors, who each give him a gift. Did Cat just find a home?

Children's First Reader Henry

***We Don't Eat Our Classmates* by Ryan T. Higgins**

It's the first day of school for Penelope Rex, and she can't wait to meet her classmates... But it's hard to make human friends when they're so darn delicious! That is, until Penelope gets a taste of her own medicine and finds she may not be at the top of the food chain after all.

Children's Picture Book Hi

***Fairy Tales* by Margaret Hillert**

Margaret Hillert is the master of telling classic tales like Cinderella, The Three Billy Goats Gruff, Jack and the Beanstalk, and many other stories for the very beginning reader. She is the perfect author to help young readers build confidence.

Children's First Reader Hillert

***How to Apologize* by David LaRochelle**

Learning how to apologize is an important, and often difficult, skill to learn. This funny book has silly examples and is a practical guidebook about why, how, and when to say "I'm sorry."

Children's Picture Book La



***See the Cat: Three Stories About a Dog* by David LaRochelle**

See the Cat is three short stories that are about a dog. The dog gets irritated with the narrator who keeps talking about him as a cat. A very funny take on beginning readers. Also, *See the Dog: Three Stories About a Cat* and *See the Ghost: Three Stories About Things You Can't See*.

Children's First Reader LaRochelle

***Horse and Buggy Plant a Seed* by Ethan Long**

Best friends Horse (a horse) and Buggy (a bug) plant a seed, but they have trouble being patient waiting for their seed to grow. There are other books in this silly series.

Children's First Reader Long

***Ty's Travels* series by Kelly Starling Lyons**

Meet Ty! He is an imaginative, positive young boy who loves to spend time with his family. Follow along with Ty as he camps out, goes to the beach, rides a bike, and enjoys other everyday fun.

Children's First Reader Lyons

***See Me Run* by Paul Meisel**

On a beautiful day in the park, a pack of energetic dogs run, roll in the mud, dig, and find a surprise when they come across some bones.

Children's First Reader Meisel

***Go, Otto, Go* by David Milgrim**

Otto is a robot who crashed into Earth. He has made many friends, but who he really wants to see is his own family. So he starts working on a spaceship to travel home. The Otto series is for kids just starting to read, and is part of the Ready-to-Read series for very first beginning readers.

Children's First Reader Milgrim

***The Kissing Hand* by Audrey Penn and Ruth Harper**

This classic book is perfect to help the nervous new kindergartener's fears about the first day of school. Chester Raccoon is very worried about starting school. His clever mother shares a family secret with him called the "kissing hand," to comfort him when he needs reassurance of her love.

Children's Picture Book Penn

***Turtle and Tortoise Are Not Friends* by Mike Reiss**

Ever since they were born, Turtle and Tortoise decided they would NOT be friends because their shells were different. For years they stayed on opposite sides of the pen ignoring each other. Then one day, something happened and they needed to work together. Would they finally become friends?

Children's Picture Book Re

***Mr. Putter and Tabby* series by Cynthia Rylant**

A favorite family read-aloud, the Mr. Putter and Tabby series follows the adventures of an older gentleman and his fine cat. A very funny and heartwarming series.

Children's First Reader Rylant



***Butterflies on the First Day of School* by Annie Silvestro**

Rosie is very excited for her first day of kindergarten, but she finds herself feeling nervous. Her mom calls what she is feeling “butterflies.” She tells Rosie that it is normal to feel butterflies when starting something new. But, will the butterflies will go away, and her first day be fun?

Children’s Picture Book Si

***Miss Bindergarten Gets Ready for Kindergarten* by Joseph Slate**

Miss Bindergarten is hard at work to get her room ready for her new students. Meanwhile, we watch her 26 students as they get ready for their first day at school. An excellent book to learn about kindergarten and practice the alphabet.

Children’s Picture Book Sl

***Interrupting Chicken* by Ezra Jack Stein**

Little Red Chicken loves story time with her father, but she has a very hard time not chiming in with her ideas during the reading. She wants to help the characters in the book, but Papa has to keep reminding her not to interrupt.

Children’s Picture Book St

***That’s Not My Name!* by Anoosha Syed**

Mirha is excited to start kindergarten and make new friends, but when she gets to school, no one can pronounce her name correctly. She begins to think that if her name is easier for her classmates to pronounce, she might fit in better. But, when mama shares with Mirha how special her name is, she decides to help her new friends learn to pronounce it correctly.

Children’s Picture Book Sy

***Fox the Tiger* by Corey R. Tabor**

Fox wishes he were a tiger. Tigers are big and fast and sneaky. So he decides to become one! Soon Turtle and Rabbit are joining in the fun. But will Fox want to be a tiger forever? Fox stars in other first readers, too!

Children’s First Reader Tabor

***On the Night Before Kindergarten* by Rosemary Wells**

On the night before kindergarten, Milo is nervous. He keeps thinking about everything that could go wrong. He wants his parents to go with him for the first day, but they can’t. Will he be able to go alone?

Children’s Picture Book We

***Cat the Cat* series by Mo Willems**

Meet Cat the Cat and her friends in this very first reader series. Each story is a simple, sweet introduction to her friends, with a very unexpected, funny ending.

Children’s First Reader Willems

***The Day You Begin* by Jaqueline Woodson**

Sometimes you may feel different. It could be how you look, or talk, or what you bring for lunch, or what you wear. Sometimes we **all** feel like an outsider. Woodson challenges us to be brave, and to be proud of who we are, exactly as we are.

Children’s Illustrated Fiction Wo

