

STORYTIME BOOKS

Babies (English)

ABCs of Kindness (2019) by Patricia Hegarty and illustrated by Summer Macon. A board book that is light and friendly without being preachy.

The Baby Goes Beep (2020) by Rebecca O'Connell and illustrated by Ken Wilson-Max. A story about all the things baby can do; perfect rhymes for an engaging baby and toddler storytime.

Let's Be Kind (2020) by Amy Pixton and Ekaterina Trukhan. Bright illustrations and simple text about kindness and manners.

The Last Marshmallow (2020) by Grace Lin. Part of the Storytelling Math series, this board book tells a cute story in minimal words about how to split an extra marshmallow between friends.

Babies (Spanish or Bilingual)

Happy Within / Feliz por dentro (2020) by Marisa J. Taylor and illustrated by Vanessa Balleza. A book to help teach children self-love. Bilingual.

!Me gusto cómo soy! / I Like Myself! (2018) by Karen Beaumont and illustrated by David Catrow. A high-energy ode to self-esteem with fun rhymes and colorful illustrations. Bilingual.

Un mundo muy amable / Kindness Makes Us Strong (2022) by Sophie Beer. A sweet, rhyming read aloud about how kindness builds friendship and community. Bilingual.

¿Tú serás mi rayito de sol? Will You Be My Sunshine? (2020) by Julia Lobo and illustrated by Nicola Slater. Adorable mouse characters and gentle rhyming text for reading aloud. Bilingual.

Toddlers (English)

When We Are Kind (2020) by Monique Gray Smith and illustrated by Nicole Neidhardt. A beautiful story that centers Indigenous families and minimal text. Starred reviews.

All Kinds of Kindness (2020) by Judy Carey Nevin and illustrated by Susie Hammer. Vibrant illustrations and bouncing rhymes.

A Little Spot of Kindness! (2019) by Diane Alber. A fun story about how a little kindness can go a long way. Hand out sticker dots for an interactive component.

My Papa Is a Princess (2018) by Doug Cenko. Through a little girl's eyes, her dad is many things. Cute book about father–daughter kindness.

Tomorrow I'll Be Kind (2020) by Jessica Hische. A rhyming book with vibrant illustrations

TIP:

Words and letters are all around us! Encourage caregivers to read signs and point out letters to their toddlers/preschoolers as they run errands.

TODDLERS

The Rabbit Listened (2018) by Cori Doerrfeld. A picture book about empathy, kindness, and the importance of listening. Starred reviews.

How Do Dinosaurs Show Good Manners? (2021) by Jane Yolder and Mark Teague. A great toddler primer for social skills. Also consider some older books in the same series.

The Kindness Book (2019) by Todd Parr. Bright illustrations and simple text about different ways to show kindness.

If Animals Tried to Be Kind (2021) by Ann Whitford Paul and illustrated by David Walker. Animals are kind to each other in various silly ways.

Try a Little Kindness (2018) by Henry Cole. A humorous rhyming book about how it is fun to be kind; features animal characters.

Toddlers (Spanish or Bilingual)

The Three Billy Goats Buenos (2020) by Susan Middleton Elya and illustrated by Miguel Ordóñez. Bouncy rhymes in a modern spin on a classic tale where kindness prevails. Starred reviews. In English with Spanish words.

My Heart Fills with Happiness / Mi corazón se Llena de Alegría. (2020) by Monique Gray Smith and illustrated by Julie Flett. A book about identifying what fills your heart with happiness; includes family, music, dance, and storytelling. Starred reviews. Bilingual.

A los unicornios no les gustan los arcoíris / Unicorns Don't Love Rainbows (2021) by Emma Adams. A funny rhyming book about empathy, kindness, and celebrating what makes us different. Available in separate English and Spanish editions.

A contar amabilidad / Counting Kindness (2021) by Hollis Kurman and illustrated by Barroux. A bilingual counting book that teaches about refugees and the joys of being welcomed into a new community. Bilingual.

Preschoolers (English)

Listen (2021) by Gabi Snyder. A mindfulness primer good for reading aloud. Starred reviews.

I Walk with Vanessa (2018) by Kerascoët. A simple yet powerful book about standing up to bullying. Starred reviews.

Sulwe (2019) by Lupita Nyong'o and illustrated by Vashti Harrison. A girl with skin the color of midnight takes a magical journey and learns to see her own unique beauty. Stunning illustrations and starred reviews

A World of Kindness (2018) by Ann Featherstone et al. A series of questions to encourage reflection on what it means to be kind.

Amy Wu and the Warm Welcome (2022) by Kat Zhang and Charlene

TIP:

Toddlers need to move, so tell caregivers it is okay if their little one needs to romp around while you read. They still hear the sound of your voice and the rhythms of storytime.

TIP:

After reading *A World of Kindness* (or similar), give children paper and crayons, and ask them to draw what kindness looks like to them. Optional: Collect and display their artwork!

PRESCHOOL

Chua. A warm book about kind gestures and cross-cultural communication.

Group Hug (2021) by Jean Reidy and illustrated by Joey Chou. A story about hugs with adorable rhymes.

I Wish, Wish, Wish for You (2022) by Sandra Magsamen and illustrated by Melisa Fernández Nitsche. A book to inspire confidence and encourage children to follow their dreams.

Clovis Keeps His Cool (2021) by Katelyn Aronson and Eve Farb. A bull in a china shop struggles with his temper in this story about finding inner peace in response to bullying.

Eyes That Kiss at the Corners (2021) by Joanna Ho and illustrated by Dung Ho. A lyrical book about learning to love and celebrate Asian-shaped eyes. Starred reviews.

I Am Thinking My Life (2022) by Allysun Atwater and illustrated by Stevie Lewis. An empowering story about an imaginative young girl's discovery of the power of positive thinking and transformation. Great for reading aloud.

Home Base (2020) by Nikki Tate and illustrated by Kathie Kath. An empowering book about a daughter who loves baseball and her bricklaying mom; this rhythmic story encourages love, self-confidence, and hard work. Starred reviews.

Be Kind (2018) Pat Zietlow Miler and illustrated by Jen Hill. A book about being kind at school. Starred reviews.

Best Day Ever (2021) by Marilyn Singer and illustrated by Leah Nixon. Engaging rhymes in this story about a boy in a wheelchair and his dog.

I Am Enough (2018) by Grace Byers and illustrated by Keturah A. Bobo. A lyrical ode to loving who you are. Award-winner.

Preschoolers (Spanish or Bilingual)

¿Qué serás? / What Will You Be? (2021) by Yamile Saied Méndez and illustrated by Kate Alizadeh. A young girl's abuelito encourages her to be true to herself. Starred reviews. Available in separate English and Spanish editions.

Jaguares y mariposas / Jaguars and Butterflies (2020) by Catherine Russler and illustrated by Ely Ely. A self-empowerment story with enchanting art for girls of Mexican heritage. Available in separate English and Spanish editions.

Nosotros Means Us: Un cuento bilingüe (2021) by Paloma Valdivia. A sweet and poetic story about loving familial bonds. Starred reviews. Bilingual.

Caleb el castor calma su ansiedad / Brave the Beaver Has the Worry Warts (2021) by Misty Black and illustrated by Ana Rankovic. This story about first-day-of-school jitters includes a poetic mantra that children can repeat to themselves when they get worried. Available in separate Spanish and English editions.

¡Hola, sol! / Hello, Sun! (2019) by Sarah Jane Hinder. Simple text invites young readers to notice what they experience; encourages children to move along as you read. Available in separate Spanish and English editions.

STORYTIME SONGS

Rhyme/Movement: I Have a Little Heart (English)

Video from Jbrary: <https://bit.ly/3xSyyM0>

I have a little heart, (place hand over heart)
 And it goes thump, thump, thump! (pat chest three times)
 It keeps right on beating,
 When I jump, jump, jump. (jump three times)
 I get a special feeling, when I look at you. (point to child)
 It makes me want to give you a hug or two. (hug yourself)

Song/Movement: If You're Happy and You Know It (English)

New lyrics for the traditional melody. A good song for themes of self-care or emotions.

If you're happy and you know it, give a shake (shake your whole body)
 If you're happy and you know it, give a shake.
 If you're happy you know it, and you really want to show it
 If you're happy and you know it, give a shake.
 Verses: Tap your toes, wiggle your fingers, swing your arms...
 Verses for emotional awareness:
 If you're sad and you know it, get a hug...
 If you're angry and you know it, take a break...
 If you're tired and you know it, have a nap...
 If you're worried and you know it, talk it out...

Song/Movement: Skinnamarink (or Skidamarink) (English)

A traditional North American children's song. Original version written by Felix F. Feist and Al Piantadosi in 1910.

Skinnamarinky dinky dink
 Skinnamarinky do
 I love you.
 Skinnamarinky dinky dink
 Skinnamarinky do
 I love you.
 I love you in the morning
 And in the afternoon.
 I love you in the evening
 Underneath the moon.
 Skinnamarinky dinky dink
 Skinnamarinky do
 I love you.

TIP:

Incorporate bubbles into storytime! Not only is it fun and relaxing, but bubbles can be good for growing brains as it develops visual tracking skills and hand-eye coordination.

STORYTIME SONGS

Song: Say My Name (English)

To the tune of “I’m a Little Teapot.” Lyrics from CSLP. Add fun for toddlers and preschoolers by saying one of their names after each round.

I’m a kind person to my friends
I listen and play, the fun never ends.
When I’m with my family, it’s the same.
Kind and gentle, say my name.

Lapsit/Bounce: Que Linda la Mano (Spanish)

A traditional rhyme from Mexico. Twist hands in a circular motion and side to side. Also good for toddlers and preschoolers who are expecting a new sibling. Listen to audio version from Cantarima on YouTube: <https://bit.ly/3zlskzD>

Que linda manita que tiene el bebé,
Que linda, que mona, que bonita es.
Pequeños deditos, rayitos de sol,
Que gire que gire como un girasol.

Fingerplay/song: Pin Pon (Spanish)

A traditional nursery rhyme from Spain about a doll’s bedtime hygiene. This song has many different versions with slight variations. Listen to an audio version from PBS Learning Media: <https://bit.ly/3b5AW9f>

Pin Pon es un muñeco muy guapo de cartón
Se lava su carita con agua y con jabón
Se desenreda el pelo con peine de marfil
Y aunque no le gusta no llora, ni hace así (frotar los ojos)
Pin Pon dame la mano con fuerte apretón
Pues quiero ser tu amigo, Pin Pon, Pin Pon, Pin Pon
Y cuando las estrellas comienzan a salir
Pin Pon se va a la cama, Pimpón se va a dormir.

Rhyme: (Sana Sana) Colita de Rana (Spanish)

A traditional rhyme from Mexico. The direct English translation is “Heal, heal, little frog’s tail. If you do not heal today, you will heal tomorrow.” It means do not worry about something that will heal on its own. Listen to the Canticos version on Spotify: <https://spoti.fi/3xuwsjH>

Sana sana colita de rana/Si no sanas hoy, sanaras mañana

TIP:

For this song in book form, check out *Pin Pon* (2020) by Susie Jaramillo.

TIP:

The song “De esta forma nos vestimos” / “This Is the Way We Get Dressed” is another fun movement song that ties into a self-care theme for toddlers and preschoolers. Lyrics from *Canciones Infantiles* here: <https://bit.ly/3Ohza2K>; English version from *Super Simple Songs* here: <https://bit.ly/3tAUWGU>

STAY AND PLAY

Song/Movement: Cabeza, Hombros, Rodillas, y Pies (Bilingual)

This Spanish translation of “Head, Shoulders, Knees, and Toes” is a great way for active toddlers and preschoolers to release some energy. For babies, caregivers can touch body parts while you sing. Excellent choice for bilingual audiences. Listen to pronunciation from Super Simple Español on YouTube: <https://bit.ly/3mKPTjp>

Cabeza, hombros, rodillas, y pies, rodillas y pies
Cabeza, hombros, rodillas, y pies, rodillas y pies
Ojos, orejas, boca, y nariz
Cabeza, hombros, rodillas, y pies, rodillas, y pies

Song: Los Pollitos Dicen / Little Chicks (Spanish)

A traditional nursery rhyme from Mexico about hungry baby chicks fed by their mother. Audio version recorded by Barbara Cohen of Warner Library in Tarrytown, NY. From CSLPreads on YouTube: <https://bit.ly/3xtw6dd>

Los pollitos dicen pío, pío, pío
Cuando tienen hambre, cuando tienen frío
La gallina busca el maíz y el trigo
Les da la comida y les presta abrigo
Bajo sus dos alas, acurrucaditos
Duermen los pollitos hasta el otro día
 (3x)
Cuando se levantan dicen mamácita,
Tengo mucha hambre dame lombricitas.

STAY AND PLAY

Animal Petting (Babies)

Using stuffed animals, caregivers demonstrate to babies how to be kind to pets, such as snuggling, stroking their fur gently, not picking them up by their tails, etc.

Who Do You See? (Babies/Toddlers)

Babies play with mirrored blocks for self-discovery; toddlers use sturdy mirrors. Guide caregivers in how to ask babies about what they see, or in playing peek-a-boo. Caregivers can ask toddlers more detailed questions (e.g., eye color, hair color, etc.), and toddlers can also be encouraged to share the mirrors with their friends.

Seeds of Kindness (Preschoolers)**TIP:**

Explain to caregivers that children learn to scribble before they learn to write. Encourage scribbling to develop fine motor skills!

STAY AND PLAY

Set out cups with soil and bean seeds. Label each cup with a craft stick that reads “KIND” (prepare the sticks beforehand, or let older preschoolers write the word themselves). Provide leaf, plant, or ladybug stickers for decorating the cups. Narrative: Kindness is like a seed; “water” it every day and watch it grow!

Kindness Counts BINGO (Preschoolers)

Play a game of kindness BINGO! This is an interactive game where children do the activities you call out. It be done as a group with a large shared BINGO game on a white board or flannelboard. Alternatively, provide handouts for a home-based version; children bring their completed game cards back to the library for a sticker or small prize. (See Standalone Printables in Chapter 08.)

Favorite Things Paper Chains (Preschoolers)

How can preschoolers be kind to themselves? By doing their favorite things and loving their favorite people! Preschoolers write down their favorite things, activities, or people on strips of paper. Caregivers help tape them into a chain, which you can connect with others’ chains to display in the library.

TIP:

Sunflower and zinnia seeds sprout easily, but they will need to be planted in the ground to bloom. Basil plants are also a good choice: Start with small plants that children can harvest for a recipe later in the summer.

TIP:

For early literacy printables, see Standalone Printables in Chapter 08.