

BABIES

STORYTIME BOOKS

Babies (English)

Count with Little Fish (2018) by author-illustrator Lucy Cousins. Bright pictures of different kinds of fish, and a simple, rhyming count from one to ten.

Ocean Motions (2018) by Kate Endle and Caspar Babypants. This book's few words are alliterative or rhyming, and its illustrations are bold and baby-friendly.

Peek-a-Baby: Ocean (2019) by Mike Orodan. Lift-up flaps will delight curious babies, and the story tells of the different sounds that ocean creatures make. Caregivers can make silly noises as they read through this blue and orange-themed book.

Baby Beluga: Raffi Songs to Read (1997) by Raffi and Ashley Wolff. This classic song about a beluga whale is presented in a board book with colorful illustrations and words to sing along with.

Nerdy Babies: Ocean (2019) by Emmy Kastner. Cheerful and simple facts about the ocean, combined with bright pictures that feature babies on every page.

Babies (Spanish/Bilingual)

Blue-Azul (2019) by Meritxell Martí and Xavier Salomó (Bilingual). This book introduces little ones to things that can be blue, including both the Spanish and the English word, and a pronunciation guide. Charming and simple.

El pececito: aprende con nosotros (2010) by Richard Powell and Stephen Barker (Spanish). A fun book for babies, with a removable transparent fish that can be placed in pockets on different pages, thereby changing its color.

El tiburón simplón (2006) by Jack Tickle (Spanish; English version *The Very Silly Shark* available). Playful and bright, with interactive pieces.

Toddlers (English)

Hello World!: Ocean Life (2019) by Jill McDonald. This book invites young readers to "dive in" and explore life in the ocean. With lovely illustrations and catchy writing, this book shows toddlers fun and fascinating facts about nature.

Mister Seahorse (2017) by Eric Carle. A story about the nurturing role of fathers. Bright illustrations and transparent pages give a seek-and-find feature to the book.

Ten Little Fish (2004) by Audrey Wood and Bruce Wood. A bouncing, rhythmic, and rhyming counting book, with vibrant images and a circular structure.

Sea Creatures Swim (2020) by Steve Jenkins. Wonderfully vibrant paper collage art pairs with simple action words and flaps that lift in this engaging book by an award-winning illustrator.

EARLY LITERACY TIP:

Counting books not only teach numbers but also help children to learn sequencing skills that develop narrative skills.

TODDLERS

I'm a Shark (2011) by Bob Shea. A bright and silly book with a loveable shark that lends itself well to exuberant telling.

Toddlers (Spanish/Bilingual)

Una casa para el cangrejo ermitaño (2017) by Eric Carle (English version *A House for Hermit Crab* also available). Hermit crab must learn to adapt to constantly outgrowing his shell. Told with colorful collaged images.

El pez pucheros (2016) by Deborah Diesen and Dan Hanna, translated by Teresa Mlawer (Spanish; English version *The Pout-Pout Fish* available). A brightly colored rhyming tale of the grumpy fish who discovers that he doesn't have to be gloomy all the time.

Don caballito de mar (2012) by Eric Carle, translated by Miguel Ángel Mendo (Spanish, English version *Mister Seahorse* available). Mister Seahorse cares for his eggs and babies in this heartwarming father-focused story with vibrant art.

10 Little Fish/10 Pececitos (2015) by Harriet Ziefert and Elliot Kreloff (Bilingual). Swim underwater with ten little fishes, and learn simple numbers and adjectives in both Spanish and English.

Animalitos del mar (2020) by Irena Abad Ros and Jorge Zarco Villarosa (Spanish). A colorful collection of rhyming tales about sea animals.

Chap-Chap: Diversión Pop-Up (2017) by Jonathan Litton and Kasia Nowowiejska, translated by Diego de los Santos (Spanish; English version *Splish-Splash: Pop-Up Fun* available). A bright and playful book with sea creatures hiding behind pop-up flaps.

¡Hurra, pececito! (2019) by Lucy Cousins (Spanish; English version *Hooray for Fish!* available). Color and repetition will draw small listeners in as they swim with little fish.

Preschool (English)

Field Trip to the Ocean Deep (2020) by John Hare. This wordless book has rich and imagination-sparking illustrations. Children can imagine themselves in the story, and help put words to what is happening.

This is a Seahorse (2020) by Cassandra Federman. A snarky seahorse sets the record straight about his species. This one will make kids laugh, and has quirky digital collage illustrations.

Show Us Where You Live, Humpback (2021) by Beryl Young and Sakika Kikuchi. A lyrical, gentle call-and-response book that shows our connection to the ocean and its creatures.

Walter the Whale Shark and His Teeny Tiny Teeth (2020) by Katrine Crow and Hazel Quintanilla. Walter discovers to his dismay that he is different from the other sharks. Bright cartoon-like illustrations, and a celebration of individuality and confidence.

TIP:

See Holiday House for an activity guide for *Field Trip to the Ocean Deep*: <https://bit.ly/3vuAaHR>

PRESCHOOL

The Pout-Pout Fish (2013) by Deborah Diesen and Dan Hanna. Playful illustrations of sea-creature characters with exaggerated expressions go along with the rhyming story in this book about a fish figuring out his destiny.

Hello, My Name Is: How Adorabilis Got His Name (2018) by Marisa Polansky and Joey Chou. Vivid, big-eyed creatures tell a story that imagines how a little octopus got his name. Inspired by real events, and includes notes from a scientist about the octopus in the story.

Plankton is Pushy (2017) by Jonathon Fenske. Plankton can't get Mussel to speak up. But he won't stop trying. Funny and playful, with a surprise ending.

In the Sea (2014) by David Elliott and Holly Meade. Captivating and funny rhyming verses that explore the habits of sea creatures, paired with woodblock and watercolor illustrations.

I'm the Biggest Thing in the Ocean (2010) by Kevin Sherry. Bright and bold artwork, and the story of a squid who goes around bragging. Also a great book to replace the animal names with Spanish words.

Preschool (Spanish/Bilingual)

Caracol presta su casa (2002) by Ana María Shua and Pez (Spanish) A little boy and a snail trade places to experience each other's lives.

The Hungry Shark / El tiburón hambriento (2018) by Tamia Sheldon (Bilingual). The adventures of Amelia the shark as she hunts for her lunch. Lots of bright pictures and a recipe involving seaweed for kids to try.

Fede diferente (2014) by Miriam Koch (Spanish, English version *Digby Differs* available, translated by Ann Garlid). A large-sized picture book with whimsical illustrations about feeling different and embracing your uniqueness.

Only One You/Nadie como tú (2014) by Linda Kranz, translated by Teresa Mlawer (Bilingual). Unique and brightly painted rockfish tell this uplifting story of parents sharing wisdom they have learned to their young child.

La ballena (2014) by Benji Davies (Spanish; English version *The Storm Whale* available). A lonely little boy's life is transformed after he finds a beached whale. Wonderful illustrations and a tender story.

El pez arco iris (2015) by Marcus Pfister, translated by Ana Tortajada (Spanish; English version *The Rainbow Fish* available). A story about overcoming selfishness, with bright and shimmery illustrations.

Las pirañas no comen bananas (2019) by Aaron Blabey (Spanish; English version *Piranhas don't eat Bananas* available). A funny book with cartoon-like drawings about Brian the piranha, who loves to eat fruit.

TIP:

See also the Storytime Katie blog for a flannel board idea with Kevin Sherry's book. <https://bit.ly/3yGAtBv>

VOCABULARY:

Squid = *calamar*
(kah-lah-mar)

Shrimp = *camaron*
(kah-ma-rohn)

Clams = *las almejas*
(al-meh-haws)

Crab = *el cangrejo*
(el kahn-greh-ho)

Jellyfish = *la medusa*
(la meh-doo-sa)

Turtle = *tortuga*
(tor-too-gah)

Octopus = *el pulpo*
(puhl-poh)

Shark = *el tiburón*
(tee-boo-rohn)

Fish = *el pez* (pehs)