

STORYTIME BOOKS

Babies (English)

Ten Little Pirates (2014) by Mike Brownlow and Simon Rickerty. A bouncy, rhyming, counting story with fun word sounds and simple, bright pictures.

Pirates in Pajamas (2017) by Caroline Crowe and Tom Knight. A silly book with lots of vibrant illustrations and different descriptors of textures and colors.

Pop-Up Peekaboo: Under the Sea (2018) by DK. Simple rhymes and lively illustrations combine in a story of a little fish searching for her friends, who are hiding under peekaboo flaps.

Go, Go, Pirate Boat (2019) by Katrina Charman and Nick Sharratt. Pirates go on a treasure hunt in this rhyming story set to the tune of “Row, Row, Row Your Boat.”

Where’s the Pirate? (2020) by Nosy Crow and Ingela P. Arrhenius. Bold and bright illustrations and few words show pirate friends hiding behind flaps, with a mirror on the final page for babies to see themselves.

Babies (Spanish/Bilingual)

10 alegres piratas (2019) by Rebecca Weerasekera and Jayne Schofield (Spanish). A playful counting book with flaps to lift and pirates galore.

Toddlers (English)

My Ocean is Blue (2020) by Darren Lebeuf and Ashley Barron. A book with few but evocative words that describe the sensory details of a day at the beach.

I Love My Pirate Papa (2014) by Laura Leuck and Kyle M. Stone. High seas adventure coupled with a loving father–son relationship.

Pirate’s Perfect Pet (2016) by Beth Ferry and Matt Myers. Funny and full of pirate lingo, this book has vivid illustrations that hide plenty of detail for toddlers to find.

Captain Jack and the Pirates (2016) by Peter Bently and Helen Oxenbury. Soft colors and gentle images accompany this adventure story told in a lyrical rhyme that could be sung like a sea shanty.

Here Comes the Ocean (2020) by Meg Flemmings and Paola Zakimi. A sweet rhyming book about a family at the seaside, with charming illustrations. This book can also be read as a seek-and-find story.

Arrr, Mustache Baby! (2019) by Bridget Heos and Joy Ang. Hairy-faced pirate babies have a rollicking romp and learn from their mistakes.

Where Does a Pirate Go Potty? (2019) by Dawn Babb Prochovnic and Jacob Souva. A story sure to get giggles, about a little pirate who’s got to go.

TIP:

All early literacy sections are designed to be used à la carte. Put together your own unique programs by choosing books, songs, and activities to suit your theme and audience!

TIP:

2–3 songs and 1–2 books fill a 30 minute program. Don’t forget to pause and ask questions, and repeat songs so toddlers can master new material.

TODDLERS

Waves (2008) by Suzy Lee. A beautiful blue-hued wordless book about a little girl and an enchanting day on the beach.

Toddlers (Spanish/Bilingual)

La familia Ratón va a la playa (2011) by Kazuo Iwamura and Haruwo Yamashita (Spanish; English version *Seven Little Mice go to the Beach* available). A family of mice go on vacation to the beach. A charming picture book with humour and watercolor illustrations.

¡Hundido! (2017) by Rob Biddulph, translated by Anna Llisterra (Spanish; English version *Sunk!* available). Penguin Blue and his friends contend with a shipwreck and a mysterious stranger on a desert island.

Los miedos del Capitán Cacurcias (2016) by José Carlos Andrés and Sonka Wimmer (Spanish). A fearful pirate captain learns to overcome his fears in this colorful picture book.

Preschool (English)

Ned the Knitting Pirate (2016) by Diana Murray and Leslie Lammler. A rhythmic and fun story that smashes gender stereotypes.

Pirate Chicken: All Hens on Deck (2019) by Brian Yanish and Jess Pauwels. Great writing for young readers, and a funny, heartwarming story about an all-chicken pirate crew.

Splash, Anna Hibiscus! (2014) by Atinuke and Lauren Tobia. An irrepressible young girl joyfully discovers the waves in this picture book about having fun and independent play. Detailed illustrations and just the right amount of text keep children engaged.

How to Be a Pirate (2020) by Isaac Fitzgerald and Brigette Barrager. A joyful, empowering story about fun and independence, with bright pictures and vibrant colors.

We're Going on a Treasure Hunt (2019) by Kelly DiPucchio and Jay Fleck. Fun rhyming text and wordplay make this great for reading aloud.

Carmela Full of Wishes (2018) by Matt de la Peña and Christian Robinson. A little girl accompanies her brother to the seaside, where she must find just the right wish for her dandelion. Lyrical and heartwarming, with beautiful artwork.

Elena's Shells (2019) by Rose Robbins. Simple text and bright images accompany this story about ownership versus friendship.

Sonata for Fish and Boy (2021) by Milan Pavlovic. A delightful wordless book celebrating friendship.

Sea Star Wishes: Poems from the Coast (2013) by Eric Ode and Erik Brooks. This collection of poems for children, themed around the coast, includes poems about sea creatures, sandcastles, and other beach activities.

TIP:

Use a visual schedule placed at the front of the storytime space (for example, use a note for a song, an image of a book, etc.) Place these in order, and check off or flip over each element as you go through storytime. This helps both children and caregivers to orient themselves and know what to expect. If your audience includes autistic participants, you might also print off individual copies so they can mark off each element.

PRESCHOOL

The Sandcastle That Lola Built (2018) by Megan Maynor and Kate Berube. Lola's plan to build a dream sandcastle leads to new friendships. This book has fun collage and mixed-media illustrations.

Summer at the Seashore: Taking a Walk (2019) by Sue Tarsky. Bright and repetitive, this book invites children to find and count animals and objects on the seashore. A great introduction to colors, numbers, and seasons.

Swap! (2016) by Steve Light. A fun book that uses black-and-white and color in a unique way, about a pirate and his mate who ingeniously repair his ship by swapping out parts. Kids can call out "SWAP!" every time it happens.

Flotsam (2006) by David Weiner. A stunning wordless book about a boy who finds an underwater camera and develops the film inside, opening up a whole world of discovery.

Preschool (English/Bilingual)

Daniela y las chicas pirata (2020) by Susanna Isern and Gómez (Spanish). A very fun read about female pirate friends on an adventure.

El pirata valiente (2019) by Ricardo Alcántara and Gusti (Spanish). A ferocious pirate gets called away from his adventure by his mother in this charming book that celebrates the wonders of the imagination.

Tito, Teo y los piratas (2010) by Ian Whybrow and Russel Ayto (Spanish; English version *Tim, Ted and the Pirates* available). A funny adventure about two friends at school dreaming up their own pirate story.

Manual de piratas (2011) by Mónica Carretero (Spanish; English version *Pirate Handbook* translated by John Brokenbrow available). A delightful and interactive "handbook" for aspiring pirates.

Tía Isa Wants a Car (2011) by Meg Medina and Claudio Muñoz (English with Spanish words). A lovely picture book about family and resourcefulness.

Jabari salta (2020) by Gaia Cornwall, translated by Georgina Lázaro (Spanish; English version *Jabari Jumps* available). A detailed and colorful story about courage.

Calle Felicidad (2020) by Elizavet Arkolaki and Charikleia Arkolaki; translated by Eva Rodriguez Ruiz (Bilingual). A joyful book with watercolor illustrations that reflect on happy seaside memories.

Las vacaciones de Pingüino by (2015) Salina Yoon (Spanish; English version *Penguin on Vacation* available). Penguin goes on a tropical vacation and learns how to have fun on the beach. Charming, cartoon-like illustrations accompany this simple tale.

Mi amigo Juan (2006) by Kitty Crowther (Spanish; English version *Jack and Jim* available). A story about a seagull and a blackbird who form a friendship, in spite of their differences. Lovely, quirky watercolor illustrations.