

# STORYTIME BOOKS

## Babies (English)

*Blue Boat* (2016) by Kersten Hamilton and Valeria Petrone. Bright, bold pictures and lots of opportunities for sound effects.

*Little Bear's Little Boat* (2012) by Eve Bunting and Nancy Carpenter. Simple, sparse text and charming pictures give this a timeless feel.

*Indestructibles: Row, Row, Row Your Boat* (2019) by Maddie Frost. The classic song paired with fun, animal-filled pictures designed to engage babies.

*Never Touch a Shark* (2020) by Rosie Greening and Stuart Lynch. Bright colors and silly rhymes with touch-and-feel features make this board book fun to look at and engage with.

## Babies (Spanish/Bilingual)

*Transporte: Rapido y lento* (2013) by Britta Teckentrup (Spanish; Bilingual and English versions *Fast and Slow* available). A board book with bright colors and bold illustrations.

## Toddlers (English)

*Boat Book* (2018) by Gail Gibbons. An exciting non-fiction book all about boats that go, go, go! Bright and cheerful pictures.

*Bunny Overboard* (2020) by Claudia Rueda. An interactive read-aloud book that invites children to blow to fill the sails, rock to make waves, etc.

*Overboard!* (2006) by Sarah Weeks and Sam Williams. A baby bunny has fun throwing things “overboard” from his crib. Rhyming text and fun exclamations on every page.

*Super Submarines* (2014) by Tony Mitton and Ant Parker. Lively rhyming text and quirky, bright illustrations introduce little ones to underwater crafts.

*Alphabet Boats* (2018) by Samantha R. Vamos and Ryan O'Rourke. A cheerful rhyming alphabet book with pictures that incorporate letters in fun and whimsical ways.

*The Little Sailboat* (2018) by Lois Lenski. First published in the 1930s, this vintage tale about a man and his dog has classic illustrations and a comforting story.

*Mighty Tug* (2018) by Alyssa Satin Capucilli and David Mottram. Charming illustrations and a cute story about a little tugboat carrying out a day's work.

## TIP:

To begin a boat-themed storytime, describe boats and ships. For instance, boats are small water crafts that float on rivers and lakes, and some people use them for fishing. A ship is a big watercraft that often travels far into the ocean; they are sometimes used as cargo to bring goods to the city, and can also carry small boats.

## TODDLERS

**Toddlers (Spanish/English)**

*La aventura más grande* (2019) by Tony Piedra (English version *The Greatest Adventure* available). A sweet story about a boy and his grandfather encouraging imagination in one another, illustrated with vibrant, cartoon-like drawings by a Pixar artist.

*10 patitos de goma* (2007) by Eric Carle (Spanish; English version *10 Little Rubber Ducks* available). Carle's classic bright collages accompany this story of 10 little ducks adrift in the sea.

*Un día de pesca* (2017) by Béatrice Rodriguez (wordless). The unconventional couple, Fox and Chicken, have an egg to raise. Chicken and his Crab friend go fishing to find food, while Fox stays home to care for the egg. Adventures ensue in this picture book!

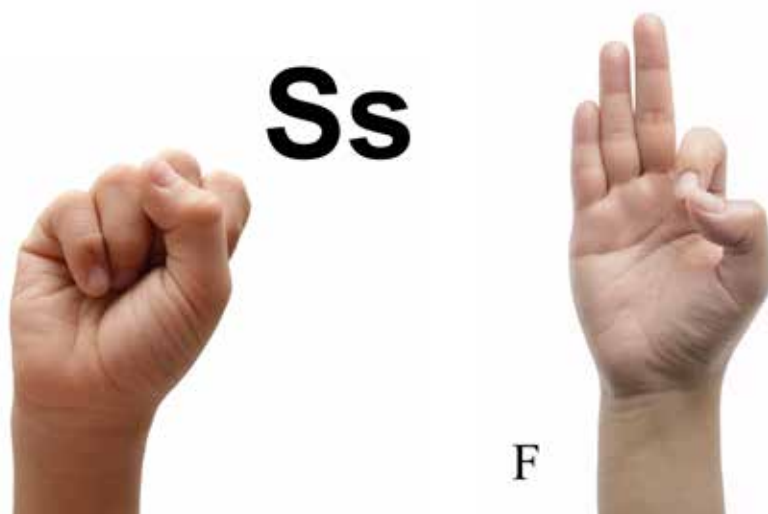


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**Preschool (English)**

*Toy Boat* (2014) by Randall de Sève and Loren Long. A story of a little boy and his toy boat. A heartwarming adventure tale.

*Old MacDonald Had a Boat* (2018) by Steve Goetz and Eda Kaban. A familiar tune with a nautical theme and lots of fun words and sounds.

*Story Boat* (2020) by Kyo Maclear and Rashin Kheiriyeh. A lyrical book with gentle and playful illustrations about the refugee experience, this message is ultimately hopeful and uplifting.

*There Was an Old Sailor* (2014) by Claire Saxby and Cassandra Allen. A playful new spin on this old rhyming classic, with lots of repetition that kids can join in on. Includes a “Fishy Facts” spread at the back of the book.

*Float* (2015) by Daniel Miyares. For a bit more of an interactive storytime, this highly rated book is wordless, with stunning images that tell an adventurous story that kids can narrate themselves.

**TIP:**

For any toddler/preschool theme, introduce a letter of the day, such as S for ship. Sing the ABCs, and incorporate flannel board letters, puppets, or any other visuals you want to use. Teach the sign language for the letter, and make the sound. Spend plenty of time practicing, and add a coloring activity for preschoolers. See [Printables for the ASL alphabet](#) and [S/ship and F/fish coloring sheets](#).

## PRESCHOOL

*Garcia and Colette Go Exploring* (2017) by Hanna Barnaby and Andrew Joyner. A book about adventure and friendship.

*Field Trip to the Ocean Deep* (2020) by John Hare. An evocative wordless book about a field trip on a submarine, and an ensuing adventure.

*Pete the Cat: Scuba Cat* (2016) by James Dean. Pete learns to scuba dive and makes a new friend in this brightly colored book.

**Preschool (Spanish/Bilingual)**

*Un día en el mar* (2017) by Paula Carbonell and Marjorie Pourchet (Spanish; English version *Under the Sea* available). Wonderful, muted illustrations pair with this imaginative story of a little girl diving into the sea to solve a mystery.

*Conejito y el mar* (2000) by Gavin Bishop, translated by Pilar Acevedo (Spanish; English version *Little Rabbit and the Sea* available). A charming story about a little rabbit who dreams of sailing the sea, and asks everyone what the sea is like.

*Barco de papel* (2008) by Jorge Lujan and Julia Friese (Spanish). Dreamy and rhythmic, this book invites readers to go on an imaginary journey with a little girl in her bathtub.

*Pepito Pimentón descubre el mar* (2015) by Elena Gromaz Ballesteros (Spanish). Pepito Pimentón is a traveling robot, and in this adventure he sails the high seas and works with his friends to stay safe, since he cannot get wet! A delightful story with activities at the end.

*¡Atrapa ese pez! (Catch that fish!)* adapted by Stevie Stack, translated by Laura Collado Píriz (Bilingual). A Disney book telling of Mickey Mouse and Goofy's fishing trip that started off quiet but turned into a rollicking adventure.