

BABIES

STORYTIME BOOKS

Babies (English)

Blue Sea (1992) by Robert Kalan and Donald Crews. Eye-popping colors and repetitive, simple text.

You Are My Baby: Ocean (2014) by Lorena Siminovich. Few words, colorful pictures, and flaps that open to reveal baby sea creatures.

Toesy-Toes (2018) by Sarah Tsiang. Simple rhyming words describe toes doing all sorts of things—including having a bath and going to the beach—accompanied by photos of babies.

Babies (Spanish/Bilingual)

Tento y el color del mar (2010) by Ricardo Alcántara and Gusti (Spanish). A board book with childlike drawings, telling a simple and fun story.

Toddlers (English)

Over in the Ocean: In a Coral Reef (2004) by Marianne Berkes and Jeanette Canyon. This fun and rhythmic counting story can be sung to the tune of “Over in the Meadow.” Canyon’s eye-popping illustrations are reliefs crafted from polymer clay, giving this book an almost tactile sensation.

Hooray for Fish! (2017) by Lucy Cousins. Whimsical and vibrant, this book will have lively toddlers chiming in along with the reading.

Bears in the Bath (2014) by Shirley Parenteau and David Walker. Soft, friendly illustrations and a simple rhyming story with fun-to-say words make bathtime enticing.

Touch and Explore the Ocean (2016) by Nathalie Choux. A multisensory book that engages little ones with vibrant visuals and fun textures.

Toddlers (English/Bilingual)

La música del mar (2017) by Susanna Isern and Marta Chicote (Spanish; English version *The Music of the Sea* available). A lyrical and dreamlike story about storms, hope, and the power of music.

Preschool (English)

One Day on Our Blue Planet (2018) by Ella Bailey. Whimsical illustrations depict a dolphin calf as she explores the Pacific Ocean and shows the reader what she finds. Lots of lovely images and introductions to different sea creatures.

Hey, Water! (2019) by Antoinette Portis. An engaging non-fiction book that introduces the many permutations of water with a child’s perspective and joyful illustrations.

TIP:

Repetition is key for helping young children to acquire information. Reading counting books over and over helps children to associate numerals with the numbers they represent.

TIP:

For preschool participants, remember to share some facts related to your theme!

PRESCHOOL

The Water Walker (2017) by Joanne Robertson. A book about conservation and the importance of water, told for young listeners with simple prose and bright colors.

Raindrops Roll (2015) by April Pulley Sayre. Short, rhythmic and alliterative lines paired with striking photographs display observations of nature and teach about the water cycle.

Turtle Walk (2020) by Matt Phelan. Repetitious and rhyming text tells a playful story of a turtle family's journey, with a gentle surprise at the end.

Captain Green and the Plastic Scene (2019) by Evelyn Bookless and Danny Deeptown. Fun superhero antics that carry an important message, along with bright and playful illustrations full of detail. An award winner.

Rocket Says Clean Up! (2020) by Nathan Bryon and Dapo Adeola. Plucky, science-loving activist Rocket goes on a beach vacation, saves a turtle, and galvanizes the community into action. Will entertain and inspire.

The Pout-Pout Fish Cleans up the Ocean (2019) by Deborah Diesen and Dan Hanna. Everybody's favourite Pout-Pout Fish is back to clean up the ocean, with repetitive, rhythmic verses and winning artwork.

Take Your Time: A Tale of Harriet, the Galápagos Tortoise (2017) by Eva Furrow, Donna Jo Napoli, and Laurel Molk. A sweet story and a visual introduction to the flora and fauna of the Galápagos Islands.

Preschool (English/Bilingual)

¡Lluvia/Rain! (2019) by Linda Ashman and Christian Robinson, translated by Carlos Calvo (Bilingual). Cheery drawings brighten up this Spanish-English book about rain and the way people interact with it.

Margarita, está linda la mar (2018) by Rubén Darío and Marta Balmaseda (Spanish; English translation can be found online at <https://bit.ly/3hYo8Tu>). A beautiful and classic Nicaraguan poem about the beauty of the sea, paired with whimsical, child-friendly illustrations.

Jorge el curioso visita el acuario/Curious George at the Aquarium (2010) by Margret and H. A. Rey (Bilingual). George gets into mischief at the aquarium. This bilingual edition also features bonus activities.

Gotas de vida (2012) by Eskko Pekka-Tiitinen and Nikolai Tiitinen; translated by Fleur Jeremiah (Spanish; English version *Drops of Life* available). Richly colored seascapes and animals teach little ones about the importance of nature and teamwork.

La fiesta del mar (2014) by María Isabel Álvarez Charro (Spanish). Kitten is a very unusual cat—he loves the water. When he decides to swim in the Sea Festival, his friends and family try to convince him not to. A whimsical story with lovely illustrations.

Agua, Agüita/Water, Little Water (2017) by Jorge Tetl Argueta and Felipe Ugalde Alcántara. A beautifully illustrated book about the importance of water, with simple and poetic trilingual text in Spanish, English, and Nahuatl.