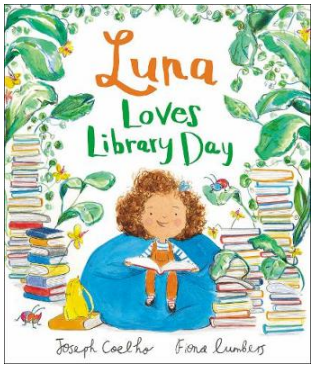
A selection of books especially selected for children in Reception classes (4-5 year olds) of average reading ability for the 2018/19 academic year.

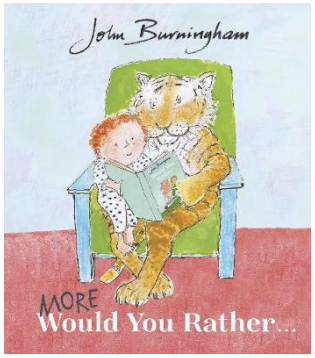
If your child is a competent reader or has read all these titles then try the books from the Year 1 list. Our overall mission is to promote reading for pleasure with quality texts that are perfectly pitched for the age group and the curriculum. We have particularly avoided blockbusters, classic or set texts, known to everyone, so that we can include poetry, stunning information texts and inspirational books in which all children and young people can find themselves reflected.



Luna Loves Library Day

Author: Joseph Coelho **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 06/09/2018 **Year Groups:** Early Years

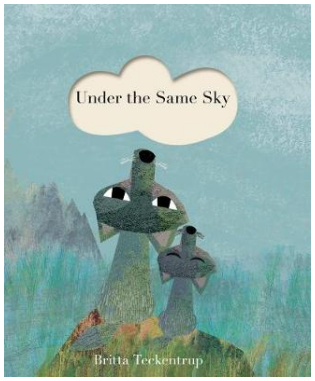
UKLA Longlist Book Awards 2019 | September 2018 Book of the Month This story of a little girl's trip to the library has so much to tell us. Luna loves going to the library, not just because she loves books, but because her dad meets her there. Together they read and share books and one of them, 'The Troll King and the Mermaid Queen', is actually included as a mini book within the book. Its story of the Troll King who can't live with the Mermaid Queen but fiercely loves their little daughter has special meaning for Luna, and will have for lots of readers too. The story is beautifully told, leaving space for readers to take what they want, and the illustrations are lively and full of warmth.



More Would You Rather

Author: John Burningham **Format:** Hardback **Release Date:** 02/08/2018 **Year Groups:** Early Years

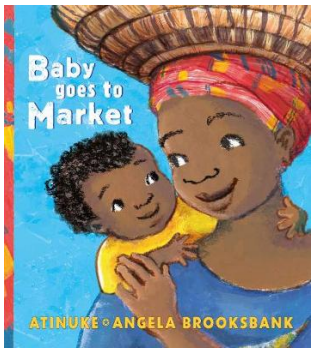
More inspired lunacy to delight young readers in this question game format revisited and illustrated in classic Burningham style.



Under the Same Sky

Author: Britta Teckentrup **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 12/07/2018 **Year Groups:** Early Years

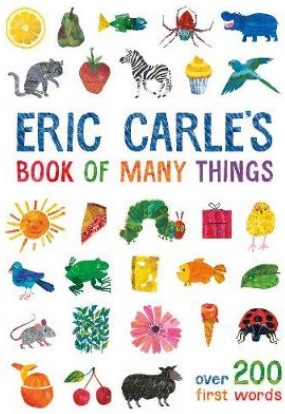
Shortlisted for the CILIP Kate Greenaway Medal 2018 | Longlisted for the UKLA 2018 Book Award With its dedication, ‘For a united world …’, Britta Teckentrup’s new picture book is a celebration of the things that bring us all together. ‘Wherever we are’ reads the text, ‘we live under the same sky, feel the same love, play the same games, and dream the same dreams’.These short lines are cleverly highlighted in peek-through shapes that link the different pages together and each spread depicts animal families across the world. Teckentrup’s textured collage style illustrations are extraordinarily beautiful and create a real sense of calm, togetherness and hope. With a vital message of unity and friendship, this is an important and moving book to share with children.



Baby Goes to Market

Author: Atinuke **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 05/07/2018 **Year Groups:** Early Years

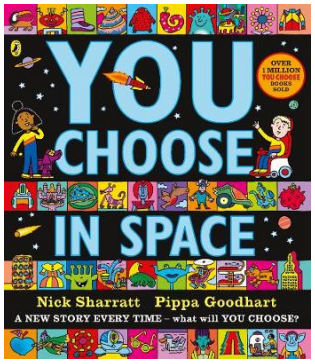
UKLA Longlist Book Awards - 2019 You can feel the love that the author and illustrator of Baby Goes to Market have for West Africa, both of whom grew up there. The vibrant market place leaps out of the page, you can almost smell the fruit for sale and hear the shouts from the market traders. Baby is snuggly wrapped in a papoose on Mama's back and is enjoying the trip to the market, especially when the market traders start giving Baby presents. First bananas, then juicy oranges, then biscuits. Baby eats a little of each and adds the remainder to the shopping basket that Mama carries on her head. Mama must be very strong! After all those treats Baby has a nap and Mama gets a well-deserved taxi ride home. Each page is gloriously filled with tantalising pictures of delicious things to eat and colourful things to buy, and there’s a gentle introduction to simple counting too.



Eric Carle's Book of Many Things

Author: Eric Carle **Format:** Hardback **Release Date:** 07/06/2018
Year Groups: Early Years, Key Stage 1

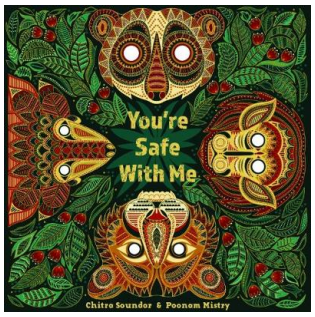
Eric Carle's immediately recognisable visual style lifts this useful first word and first concept compendium to another level.



You Choose in Space

Author: Pippa Goodhart **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 12/04/2018 **Year Groups:** Early Years

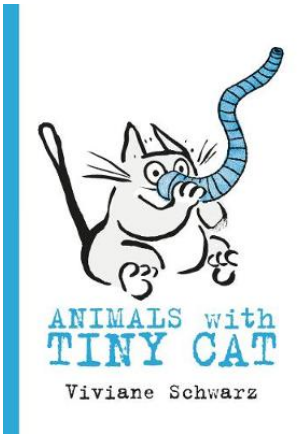
The latest rendition of this highly successful format which inspires endless discussion and creative stimulus.



You're Safe With Me

Author: Chitra Soundar **Format:** Hardback **Release Date:** 01/04/2018
Year Groups: Early Years

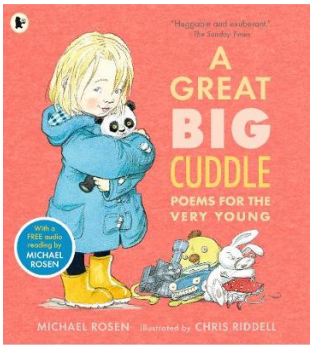
Shortlisted for the CILIP Kate Greenaway Medal 2018 A wonderfully lyrical call and response text and an intricate, beautifully detailed and different illustrative style combine to great effect in this reassuring tale.



Animals with Tiny Cat

Author: Viviane Schwarz **Format:** Hardback **Release Date:** 01/01/2018 **Year Groups:** Early Years

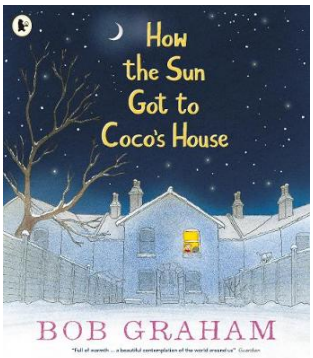
Tiny Cat, star of There are Cats in this Book and There are No Cats in This Book, is back. Here, helped by a few props Tiny Cat, who loves dressing up, becomes a mouse, a horse, a dragon and a snake. But what can Tiny Cat change into to see off a very fierce dragon? Viviane Schwarz's witty and simple illustrations are a delightful feat of imagination.



A Great Big Cuddle

Author: Michael Rosen **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 01/10/2017 **Year Groups:** Early Years

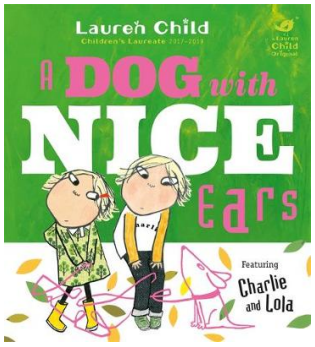
Shortlisted for the CILIP Kate Greenaway Medal 2017 | Joint Winner of the CLiPPA 2016 (CLPE Children's Poetry Award). Children's Laureates Chris Riddell and Michael Rosen combine here to create a beautiful collection of ebullient poems for the very young. Michael Rosen's close and affectionate observation of small children and the way they think is brilliantly captured in poems such as You Can't See Me and Let Me Do It. There are also plenty of opportunities for the very young to join in with poems such as Tippy-Tappy and The Button Bop which they are guaranteed to want to hear again and again! Chris Riddell's illustrations created an equally warm-hearted view of the early years and capture the spirit of the poems perfectly.



How the Sun Got to Coco's House

Author: Bob Graham **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 01/10/2017 **Year Groups:** Early Years

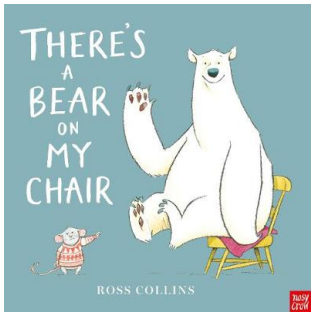
As Coco's parents tuck her into bed, far away the winter sun is rising on a polar bear and her cubs. We follow the sun as it skids 'giddy' across the sea, caught briefly in the eye of a whale, and on as it shines on different lands and people, chasing the night, until at last it barges through Coco's window! 'After such a dash, the sun had time on its hands' and, but for a few passing clouds, they spend the whole day together. Graham's sun's eye view of the world is breathtakingly beautiful, his soft watercolours infusing quiet snowy scenes and a raucous family breakfast with equal warmth and humanity. This special book makes the world a smaller place.



A Dog With Nice Ears

Author: Lauren Child **Format:** Hardback **Release Date:** 28/09/2017
Year Groups: Early Years, Key Stage 1

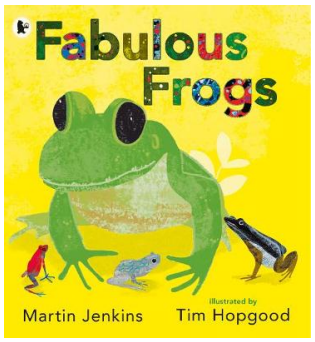
Taking on a familiar storyline about pets with characteristic wit and thoughfulness this latest Charlie and Lola escapade is another triumph.



There's a Bear on My Chair

Author: Ross Collins **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 01/09/2016
Year Groups: Early Years

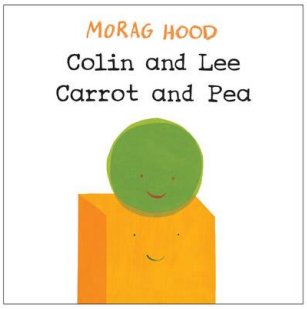
Winner of the UKLA 2017 Book Award | One of our Books of the Year 2016 | Shortlisted for the CILIP Kate Greenaway Medal 2016 | Shortlisted for the Bookbug Picture Book Prize 2016 Text, illustration and design all combine to make this an outstanding picture book. Mouse is cross, there's a bear – a polar bear – on his chair, he won't move and 'There isn't any room to spare. We do not make a happy pair'. The bear is apparently oblivious to Mouse and his growing rage, though readers will notice him take an occasional sly peek at his companion, deftly illustrated in just one line of eyebrow. Collins's illustrations also brilliantly capture Mouse's changing moods, from anger through to resignation. The text is a joy to read, a series of funny statements constructed – Dr Seuss-like – around words that rhyme with chair. A sequel – There's a Mouse in My House – must follow. This superb picture book is set to become a classic.



Fabulous Frogs

Author: Martin Jenkins **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 01/08/2016
Year Groups: Early Years

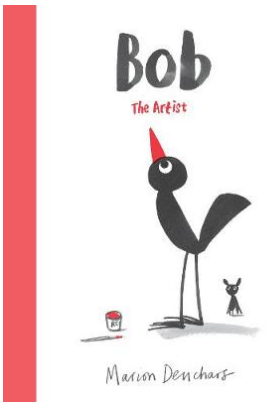
Vivid illustrations, great design and layout and clear concise explanation show why this was a well deserved Information Book Awards winner.



Colin and Lee, Carrot and Pea

Author: Morag Hood **Format:** Hardback **Release Date:** 16/06/2016 **Year Groups:** Early Years

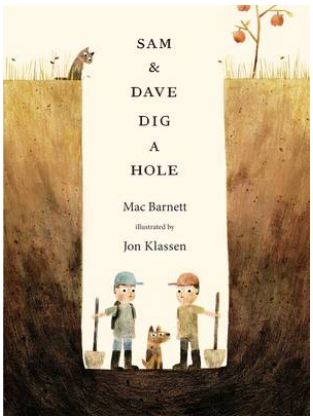
Winner of the UKLA 2018 Book Award 3-6 | One of our Books of the Year 2016 | July 2016 Debut of the Month Simplicity is the charm of this picture book story of the unlikely friendship between very different vegetables. Lee is a very green pea and so are all of his friends except for Colin who is a very orange carrot. Colin can't do all the things that the pea-friends can do such as roll or bounce. Nonetheless, it turns out that they can all be very good friends.



Bob the Artist

Author: Marion Deuchars **Format:** Hardback **Release Date:** 24/03/2016 **Year Groups:** Early Years

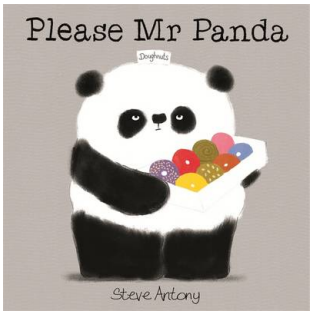
From an award winning graphic artist, Bob the Artist shows us that we can all be proud of our differences as well as celebrating creativity.



Sam and Dave Dig a Hole

Author: Mac Barnett **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 03/09/2015 **Year Groups:** Early Years

Shortlisted for the CILIP Kate Greenaway Medal 2016. Award-winning illustrator Jon Klassen has created a second delightful and surprising picture book with Mac Barnett, author of The Dark. Here two boys dig a hole. It doesn't seem to take them far so they try digging a bit on their own. They still make little progress. So they take a rest...What happens while they are asleep turns out to be most surprising of all! In simple illustrations, Sam and Dave Dig a Hole gives a host of opportunities for imagining and dreaming.



Please Mr Panda

Author: Steve Antony **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 03/09/2015 **Year Groups:** Early Years

A humorous lesson in manners from the most endearingly grumpy panda. Likely to become a class catchphrase!



Shh! We Have a Plan

Author: Chris Haughton **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 02/04/2015 **Year Groups:** Early Years

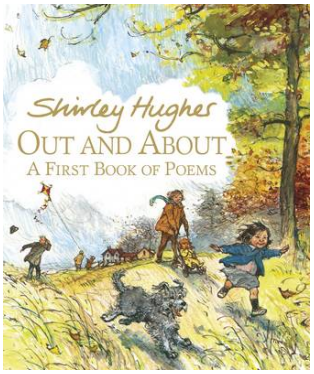
Longlisted for the 2015 CILIP Kate Greenaway Medal - Shortlisted for the Little Rebels Book Award 2015 Awarding-winning Chris Haughton tells a big story in stunning illustrations in his near-wordless picture book. The huntsmen are determined to capture the bird. Armed with nets they creep up on their prey…but they haven't got every angle covered! How the littlest repeatedly sabotages the huntsmen's plans is a wittily told story with a strong message about communication.



The Something

Author: Rebecca Cobb **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 26/03/2015 **Year Groups:** Early Years

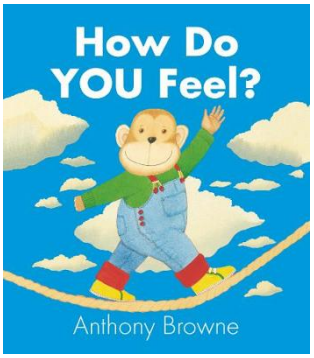
Shortlisted for the UKLA 2016 Book Award in the 3 - 6 year old category - Longlisted for the 2015 CILIP Kate Greenaway Medal
Award-winning illustrator Rebecca Cobb creates a number of different imaginary worlds in this delightfully fanciful story about a hole in the ground. The little girl finds the hole just beside the cherry tree. Who could live in it? Could it be frogs, mice, a badger or a troll or a dragon? Everyone has a different idea and the little girl and her dog sit and watch patiently so can be the very first to see! Full of charm, the imaginative scope of the story is quietly inspirational.



Out and About A First Book of Poems

Author: Shirley Hughes **Format:** Hardback **Release Date:** 01/10/2014 **Year Groups:** Key Stage 1

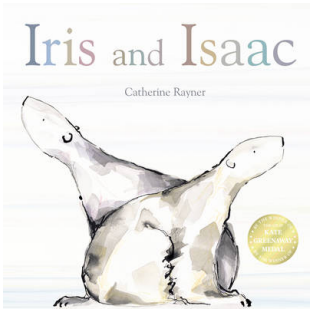
From the joys of the seaside to the miseries of the sickbed, this exuberant volume captures to perfection the world of childhood. It is a beautiful gift edition of the classic picture book, with a new introduction by Shirley Hughes.



How Do You Feel?

Author: Anthony Browne **Format:** Board book **Release Date:** 01/05/2013 **Year Groups:** Early Years

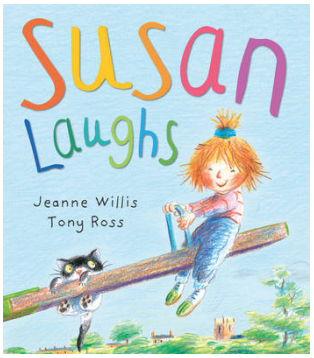
A wonderful introduction to the art of Anthony Browne and in capturing some complex emotions also has great topic uses for Foundation stage.



Iris and Isaac

Author: Catherine Rayner **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 30/09/2011 **Year Groups:** Early Years

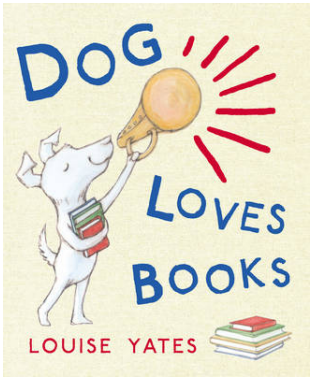
Prize-winning illustrator Catherine Rayner has produced a new outstanding title. Polar bears Iris and Isaac fall out over sharing their nest. Each stomps away in a Big Bear Huff but soon both find that they don’t enjoy anything half as much on their own. Luckily, they are reunited and find they can share the nest after all. Set against a stunning winter landscape, this is a perfect book about friendship.



Susan Laughs

Author: Jeanne Willis **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 03/02/2011
Year Groups: Early Years

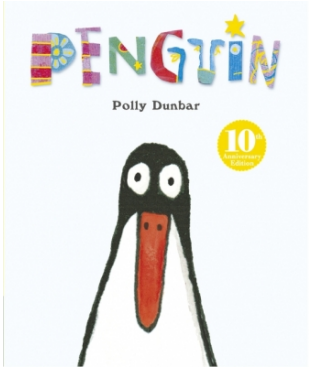
A prize winning title, this introduces Susan who loves to swing, dance, swim, ride do all the things other children do. In fact, she's no different from any other little girl except that, as the final spread shows, she gets about in a wheel chair. The vigour and active text is perfectly supported by Tony Ross's warm hearted illustrations.



Dog Loves Books

Author: Louise Yates **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 04/03/2010
Year Groups: Early Years

Winner of the Roald Dahl Funny Prize 2010 (Funniest Book for Children aged Six and Under). Shortlisted for the Independent Booksellers' Book Prize 2010. The magic of books and reading is perfectly illustrated in this joyful picture book. Dog loves books and reading so he decides to open a bookshop. Everything about it is perfect – except that no one comes in to buy books! Dog hates being alone but he soon finds that if he is reading he never is alone as all the characters from the stories come and join him.



Penguin

Author: Polly Dunbar **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 04/06/2007
Year Groups: Early Years

Polly Dunbar has been selected as one of The Big Picture campaign's Best New Illustrators in 2008 and was also the winner of the 0-5 Nestle Silver Award 2007. We loved the emotional interaction between Ben and Penguin in this delightful story. Just you wait until you see a child enjoy it as much as we did. Polly Dunbar's illustrations – a mix of mediums including collage, watercolour and pastel, are a delight.