



Little Makers Annotated Bibliography

We've put together a list of our favorite 200+ children's books! Some focus directly on concepts we celebrate through our Little Makers programs, and others are just plain fun to share. The list is in alphabetical order and includes brief notes, as well as which ages each book might be best suited for, along with the name of the publisher and the year the book was first published.

We've also included "tags," words that reflect the content of the book, to make the list more searchable by subject. Enjoy!

Searchable Tags

biography	friction	ramps
building	gravity	repurpose
cause and effect	group reading	rhyming
collaboration	house	science
color	imagination	shadow
compromise	invention	shapes
construction	light	simple machines
cooperation	maker mindset	sound
creativity	making	storytime
diversity	motion	tools
energy	music	toy book
engineering	numbers	water
experiment	perseverance	weight
explore	planning	wind
force	problem-solving	wordless

Alling, Niki. When I Build with Blocks. CreateSpace Independent Publishing Platform, 2012.

In the block area at school, children build anything using their imaginations.

Ages: 4, 5, 6, 7, 8

Tags: [building](#), [imagination](#)

Anderson, Joan. Harry's Helicopter. Morrow Junior Books, 1990.

Animals discover and progressively sit in a box that gets more crowded until a hungry flea comes along.

Ages: 3, 4, 5, 6

Tags: [group reading](#), [imagination](#), [cause and effect](#)

Ardley, Neil. The Science Book of Sound. Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, 1991.

Teaches the concept of sound and the different types of sounds with clear descriptions and hands-on activities. Readers can create sounds with common household materials, creating animal noises with a piece of plastic between fingers, or they can make a cardboard flute or rubber band guitar.

Ages: 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10

Tags: [sound](#), [science](#)

Arnold, Tedd. Vincent Paints His House. Holiday House, 2015.

Vincent needs help from some of his creature friends to decide which color to paint his house. Lovely bright, simple illustrations and text.

Ages: 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

Tags: [collaboration](#), [color](#), [compromise](#)

Aronson, Sarah. Just Like Rube Goldberg: The Incredible True Story of the Man Behind the Machine. Beach Lane Books, 2019.

This biography of Rube Goldberg emphasizes his accomplishments and how he followed his dreams.

Ages: 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8

Tags: [maker mindset](#), [biography](#), [problem-solving](#), [perseverance](#), [cause and effect](#)

Asch, Frank. The Sun Is My Favorite Star. HMH Books for Young Readers, 2008.

Simple rhyming text with bright illustrations displays a child's view of the sun as a familiar playmate.

Ages: 3, 4, 5

Tags: [light](#), [shadow](#)

Asch, Frank and Devin Asch. Like a Windy Day. Voyager Books, 2002.

Simple text about a small girl who plays and dances in the fall on a windy day.

Ages: 2, 3

Tags: [wind](#)

Austin, Mike. Monsters Love Colors. Harper, 2013.

Bright, colorful, energetic drawings of monsters making and mixing colors. However, the rainbow at the end is incorrect!

Ages: 2, 3, 4, 5

Tags: [color](#), [creativity](#)

Badescu, Ramona. Pomelo Explores Colors. Enchanted Lion Books, 2012.

This story uses sophisticated vocabulary to evoke the description of colors and the feelings they generate as Pomelo the elephant explores the world around him. This book may be a little too sophisticated for the youngest little maker.

Ages: 5, 6, 7, 8

Tags: [color](#)

Baker, Alan. White Rabbit's Color Book. Kingfisher Books, 1994.

White Rabbit shows off the mixable properties of primary colors when she immerses herself in three big tubs of paint. Sweet-natured humor infuses clear, precise artwork. This book is particularly recommended because it lends itself well to sharing in other formats such as puppetry, flannel boards, and experimentation.

Ages: 1, 2, 3, 4

Tags: [color](#), [cause and effect](#)

Baker-Smith, Grahame. The Rhythm of the Rain. Templar, 2019.

A small boy imagines the travels of water from a jar through steps of the water cycle and around the world.

Ages: 3+

Tags: [water](#), [imagination](#), [cause and effect](#)

Bang, Molly. My Light. Blue Sky Press, 2004.

The sun narrates an explanation of light and energy. The generation of electricity can be traced back to it. Tiny yellow dots represent the sun's power as it streams from light, water, wind, and electricity. Endnotes are used to illuminate everything from dark matter to atoms to pollution.

Ages: 4, 5, 6, 7, 8

Tags: [light](#), [wind](#), [cause and effect](#)

Barnett, Mac. Just Because, Candlewick Press, 2019.

A child at bedtime asks big questions about the natural world, and fantastical guesses are given in reply.

Ages: 4, 5, 6, 7, 8

Tags: [maker mindset](#), [imagination](#)

Barnett, Mac. Noisy Night. Roaring Brook Press, 2016.

Each floor of an apartment building is troubled by noisy upstairs neighbors. This book encourages readers to think through what is making the sound they are hearing. Brief text with large clear colorful illustrations. Suitable for a group storytime.

Ages: 3, 4, 5, 6

Tags: [sound](#), [imagination](#), [group reading](#), [cause and effect](#)

Barros, Bruna. The Carpenter. Gibbs Smith, 2017.

Wordless picture book demonstrates a young boy becoming increasingly intrigued and creative, repurposing tools that his grandfather is using to build a boat they will sail in. Includes illustrations of design plans, rulers, hammers, pliers, mallets, metal snips, and marking pencils. Racially diverse.

Ages: 3, 4, 5

Tags: [tools](#), [repurpose](#), [making](#), [wordless](#)

Barss, Karen. Martha Bakes a Cake. Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2012.

More of a comic illustration of how not to follow a recipe and bake a cake. This is a beginning reader, so the text reads simplistically with cartoon-like illustrations.

Ages: 4, 5, 6

Tags: [making](#), [problem-solving](#)

Bartalos, Michael. Shadowville. Pow!, 2013.

Block print illustrations of rhyming text about the secret life of shadows.

Ages: 4, 5, 6

Tags: [light](#), [shadow](#)

Barton, Byron. Building a House. Greenwillow Books, 1981.

Briefly describes the steps in building a house.

Ages: 4, 5, 6

Tags: [building](#), [tools](#), [collaboration](#)

Barton, Byron. Machines at Work. HarperCollins Publishers, 1987.

Beautiful, simple primary-colored pictures illustrate different construction machines being used by road and building construction teams, inclusive of women figures. Extremely simple text.

Ages: 1, 2, 3

Tags: [building](#), [collaboration](#)

Barton, Byron. My House. Greenwillow Books, 2016.

Simple, colorful illustrations exhibit a cat who introduces each room of his home. Sweet text, not necessarily maker mentality but suitable for the youngest of children in a shared storytime.

Ages: 1, 2, 3

Tags: [group reading](#), [explore](#)

Bass, Jennifer Vogel. Edible Colors. Roaring Brook Press, 2014.

Describes and illustrates with photographs all the variations of colors in fruits and vegetables.

Age:s 2, 3, 4, 5

Tags: [color](#), [making](#)

Bean, Jonathan. Building Our House. Farrar, Strauss, Giroux, 2013.

A young girl narrates her family's relocation from the city to the country, where they've bought a piece of land and live in a trailer while they build a house from the ground up, with help from relatives and friends.

Ages: 3, 4, 5, 6

Tags: [tools](#), [collaboration](#), [engineering](#), [building](#)

Beaty, Andrea. Ada Twist, Scientist. Abrams Books for Young Readers, 2016.

Entertaining story of a very curious girl who constantly questions the world around her and uses scientific methods to determine her answers, sometimes with unexpected results. Great for a little older storytime sharing.

Ages: 5+

Tags: [experiment](#), [invention](#)

Beaty, Andrea. Iggy Peck, Architect. Abrams Books for Young Readers, 2007.

Interesting, amusing book following the growth of a young boy who manifests the maker mindset from infancy. Ultimately, along with the collaboration of his classmates, he engineers a suspension bridge crafted from shoelaces and assorted lunch debris that saves them all from disaster. More sophisticated than many picture books, this story would be excellent for an older group reading.

Ages: 5, 6+

Tags: [problem-solving](#), [creativity](#), [imagination](#)

Beaty, Andrea. Rosie Revere, Engineer. Abrams Books for Young Readers, 2014.

This story is told in rhyming verse. Rosie, a second-grader, wants to become a great engineer, but first, she must overcome her fear of failure. She tries to make a flying machine for her great-great-aunt Rose (Rosie the Riveter), but her contraption doesn't fly. It hovers for a moment and then crashes, so Rosie deems the invention a failure. Challenges present themselves as part of the creation process and ultimately the only real failure is quitting.

Ages: 5, 6, 7

Tags: [engineering](#), [making](#), [perseverance](#)

Beaumont, Karen. I Ain't Gonna Paint No More! Harcourt, 2005.

Rhythmic rhyming, even singable, this text appeals to many levels of children while exploring the joys of creativity and naughtiness! Eminently qualified for Little Makers.

Ages: 3, 4, 5, 6

Tags: [color](#), [creativity](#), [imagination](#), [music](#)

Beil, Karen Magnuson. Jack's House. Holiday House, 2008.

An amusingly different take on the traditional Jack's House tale with a surprise ending. Each line of the book illustrates a different construction vehicle in bright, appealing colors.

Ages: 3, 4, 5

Tags: [building](#), [tools](#)

Berenstain, Stan & Jan. Inside, Outside, Upside Down. Random House, 1968.

Using a limited vocabulary for young readers, a simple tale of how a little bear travels to town in a cardboard box.

Ages: 2, 3, 4

Tags: [motion](#), [repurpose](#)

Berger, Melvin. Switch On, Switch Off. Crowell, 1989.

Explains how electricity is produced and transmitted, how to create electricity using an electrical wire and a magnet, how generators supply electricity for cities, and how electricity works in homes.

Ages: 4, 5, 6, 7, 8

Tags: [light](#)

Bianchini, Bob. Charlie Builds: Bridges, Skyscrapers, Doghouses, and More! Abrams Appleseed, 2017.

Charlie spends a lot of time with his dad building sandcastles, a doghouse, a treehouse, and best of all, a pillow fort for the two of them to snuggle together.

Ages: 1, 2, 3

Tags: [collaboration](#), [making](#)

Bianchini, Bob. Charlie Builds. Abrams Appleseed, 2017.

Rhyming simple text about a boy and his dad building with cardboard, Lego, blocks, wood, and other assorted materials. Bright, cartoonish illustrations make it very young-child friendly.

Ages: 2, 3

Tags: [maker mindset](#), [creativity](#), [collaboration](#)

Biggs, Brian. Tinyville Town Gets to Work! Abrams Appleseed, 2016.

Brightly colored fun pictures illustrate the story of a little town that builds a big new bridge. Text mentions piers, arches, city planners, and engineers, all of which may be new concepts to young children. This book would be excellent for group reading in a maker program.

Ages: 3, 4, 5

Tags: [engineering](#), [problem-solving](#), [cause and effect](#)

Biggs, Brian. Tinyville Town Gets to Work! Abrams Appleseed, 2016.

There's a big problem in Tinytown, but all the people in town come together with engineers and construction workers to solve it.

Ages: 3, 4, 5

Tags: [collaboration](#), [making](#)

Birdsall, Jeanne. Flora's Very Windy Day. Clarion Books, 2010.

A sweet story of a girl and her pesky little brother who are swept away by the blustering wind and how she protects him from all the creatures who want to assume possession of him.

Ages: 4, 5, 6

Tags: [wind](#)

Birkett, Georgie. Fix It! Child's Play International Ltd., 2010.

Simplistic text and bright drawings illustrate a small genderless child repairing various broken toys using tape, needles and thread, screws, and batteries. The child then proceeds to plan and carry out the construction of a toy box to store them in. Notable for its simplicity, diversity of character, and use of safety equipment.

Ages: 2, 3

Tags: [diversity](#), [problem-solving](#), [building](#), [tools](#)

Blackstone, Stella. Bears Busy Family. Barefoot Books, 1999.

Rhyming text with colorful illustrations demonstrating the maker lifestyle in all members of a child's family.

Ages: 1, 2, 3

Tags: [maker mindset](#), [collaboration](#), [color](#), [rhyming](#)

Blackstone, Stella. Bear's Busy Family. Barefoot Books, 1999.

Rhythmic rhyming text with colorful illustrations demonstrating the maker lifestyle in all members of a child's family.

Ages: 1, 2, 3

Tags: [collaboration](#), [color](#)

Blackstone, Stella. Making Minestrone. Barefoot Books, 2000.

This book follows a group of children gathering vegetables from the garden and then concocting a minestrone soup. Ingredients are listed, and the recipe follows the story. Very reminiscent of Tomi DePaola.

Ages: 3, 4, 5

Tags: [making](#), [cooperation](#)

Blackstone, Stella. The Wheels on the Bus. Barefoot Books, Inc., 2014.

A story of a bus ride, including a flat tire, from a Guatemalan village to a market town. New onomatopoeic words added to the popular song are suited to this particular story. The CD includes an audio singalong and video animation.

Ages: 2, 3, 4, 5

Tags: [sound](#), [group reading](#)

Boyd, Lizi. Flashlight. Chronicle Books, 2014.

Very creative cut-paged wordless book follows a boy camping in the woods pointing his flashlight at all the night creatures. Beautifully done, and best shown one-on-one.

Ages: 4, 5, 6

Tags: [light](#), [wordless](#)

Bradley, Kimberly. Forces Make Things Move. HarperCollins, 2005.

A Stage 2 Let's Read and Find Out Science Book. Excellent conversational style explanation of force, friction, and movement. Much detail is related to everyday experiences. It concludes with a simple experiment and a two-page spread illustrating children engaged in "movement" activities. Probably too long for storytime sharing.

Ages: 5+

Tags: [force](#), [motion](#), [friction](#), [weight](#), [gravity](#)

Briggs, Korwin. Invention Hunters: Discover How Machines Work. Little, Brown Books for Young Readers, 2019.

The Invention Hunters travel the globe in their flying museum collecting the world's greatest inventions! When they land in a construction zone, these silly scientists think they've stumbled on incredible specimens of everything you'd never find at a building site, from roller skates and pogo sticks to swords and race cars. But what they really discover--with a kid as their guide--is how simple machines like pulleys, cranks, and levers are used to engineer tools ranging from jackhammers to dump trucks and even toilets! An engaging read for a group.

Ages: 4, 5, 6, 7, 8

Tags: [invention](#), [simple machines](#), [engineering](#)

Broder, Robert. Our Shed: A Father-Daughter Building Story. Little Bigfoot, 2020.

A father and daughter bond when they build a garden shed together with a lot of practical skills and much imagination. Suitable for storytime.

Ages: 5, 6, 7

Tags: [collaboration](#), [building](#), [imagination](#), [creativity](#)

Brown, Lisa. The Airport Book. Roaring Brook Press, 2016.

An exploratory journey through the airport.

Ages: 5, 6, 7

Tags: [explore](#), [ramps](#)

Bruss, Deborah. Big Box for Ben. Star Bright Books, 2011.

An old carton is the scene of many adventures for Ben and his dog, Wags, as his imagination turns it into a car, a plane, a boat, an elephant, and a mountaintop.

Ages: 2, 3, 4

Tags: [imagination](#), [repurpose](#)

Bryant, Laura. This Little Pup. Albert Whitman & Company, 2020.

A ball bounces through a farm, passing a succession of animals until caught by a pup. A color and counting book. Nice illustrations.

Ages: 2, 3, 4

Tags: [motion](#), [storytime](#)

Bryant, Laura J. This Little Pup. Albert Whitman & Company, 2020.

Simple number, colors, and animal book navigated by a bouncing ball that is ultimately stopped by one little pup. Classic predictable format with charming illustrations for the youngest of children.

Ages: 1, 2, 3

Tags: [numbers](#), [color](#), [imagination](#)

Bulla, Clyde. What Makes a Shadow? HarperCollins, 1994.

An excellent simple explanation of shadows with clear, simple illustrations. This book includes conversational suggestions for child-friendly experiments with shades. One of the best books!

Ages: 2.5, 3, 4, 5

Tags: [light](#), [shadow](#), [experiment](#)

Bunting, Eve. Pop's Bridge. Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2006.

Robert and his friend Charlie are proud of their fathers, who are working on the construction of San Francisco's Golden Gate Bridge.

Ages: 4, 5, 6, 7

Tags: [construction](#), [engineering](#)

Burton, Virginia Lee. The Little House. Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 1942.

The story of a happy home and her journey from the pleasures of nature to the bustling city, and back again.

Ages: 4, 5, 6, 7

Tags: [building](#), [repurpose](#)

Butterworth, Chris. How Does My Home Work? Candlewick, 2018.

The inner workings of how a home works, including detailed descriptions of water, electric, and gas systems, as well as tips for saving energy.

Ages: 5, 6, 7, 8

Tags: [energy](#), [water](#), [engineering](#)

Cage, John. Mud Book: How to Make Pies and Cakes. Princeton Architectural Press, 2017.

This little book illustrates how to concoct mud pies and cakes. Includes two tongue-in-cheek recipes and a list of ingredients necessary to make them. Very charming.

Ages: 3, 4, 5

Tags: [making](#), [imagination](#)

Camper, Cathy. Ten Ways to Hear Snow. Kokila, 2020.

A young girl listens to the various sounds as she walks to her grandmother's house on a snowy day. Vivid descriptions of sound and setting.

Ages: 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8

Tags: [sound](#), [imagination](#)

Carle, Eric. Hello, Red Fox. Simon & Schuster, 1998.

Beautiful simple collage illustrations accompany short text about a young frog's birthday guests, who each appear to be a different color than what they should be. Demonstrates the theory of the complementary colors and contains an experiment with visual discrimination probably best suited for children 5 and up.

Ages 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8

Tags: [color](#), [experiment](#)

Carle, Eric. The Mixed-Up Chameleon. Crowell, 1984.

Classic Carle book, multi-faceted learning dimensions as well as a good morality tale. Encompasses colors, animals, and predictability factors and offers many ways to share extension activities.

Ages: 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8

Tags: [color](#), [imagination](#)

Carle, Eric. What's Your Favorite Color? Godwin Books, Henry Holt and Company, 2017.

A collage of favorite children's authors and illustrators, who each share their favorite color along with a personal explanation on their thoughts why. Excellent, interesting concept, probably best shared as part of a multidimensional lesson.

Ages: 4, 5, 6, 7, 8

Tags: [color](#), [creativity](#)

Carlstrom, Nancy White. How Does the Wind Walk? Macmillan, 1993.

Poetical examination of wind during the various seasons with full-page watercolor illustrations.

Ages: 3, 4

Tags: [wind](#)

Chung, Arree. Mixed: A Colorful Story. Henry Holt and Company, 2018.

A typical primary color book, which surprisingly expands to lean heavily on nurturing the values of tolerance, inclusion, and embracing those different from ourselves.

Ages: 3, 4, 5, 6

Tags: [color](#), [diversity](#)

Clair, Michelle and Lydia Ortiz. Still Life with Bricks: The Art of Everyday Play. Chronicle Books, 2020.

Bright photographs illustrate Lego bricks arranged as art as opposed to in classic building techniques. This book presents a new way of looking at objects—a great idea generator for kids.

Ages: 4, 5, 6, 7

Tags: [repurpose](#), [imagination](#), [creativity](#)

Cobb, Vicki. I Face the Wind. HarperCollins, 2003.

Introduces the characteristics and actions of the wind through simple hands-on activities.

Ages: 4, 5, 6, 7, 8

Tags: [wind](#)

Cobb, Vicki. I Fall Down. HarperCollins, 2004.

Book begins with a note to adults on how to read the book effectively with a child and a list of props for experimentation as the book progresses. This is a simple, helpful guide to an extended learning session about gravity. Probably best done one-on-one.

Ages: 3, 4

Tags: [gravity](#), [weight](#)

Cobb, Vicki. I See Myself. HarperCollins, 2002.

Excellent question and answer book best shared with an adult who can facilitate answers. The book begins with a note to the adult to have a mirror, ball, and flashlight on hand and stop reading to explore solutions to the questions posed.

Ages: 3, 4, 5, 6

Tags: [light](#), [collaboration](#)

Cornwall, Gail. Jabari Tries. Candlewick Press, 2020.

When Jabari tries to make a flying machine, it doesn't turn out as he planned.

Ages: 4, 5, 6

Tags: [perseverance](#), [problem-solving](#)

Cottin, Menena. The Black Book of Colors. Greenwood Books/House of Anansi Press, 2008.

This title invites readers to imagine living without sight through remarkable illustrations done with raised lines and descriptions of colors based on imagery. Braille letters accompany the illustrations, and a full Braille alphabet offers sighted readers help reading along with their fingers.

Ages: 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10

Tags: [color](#), [imagination](#), [diversity](#)

Cowen-Fletcher, Jane. Mama Zooms. Scholastic, Inc., 1993.

The sweet, simple text of a toddler and his mother who uses a wheelchair engaging in imaginative play and travels. Demonstrates an inclined plane.

Ages: 2.5, 3

Tags: [imagination](#)

Cox, Judy. My Family Plays Music. Holiday House, 2003.

Introduces the reader to different genres of music as a girl enjoys adding percussion instrumentals to her various family ensembles.

Ages: 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8

Tags: [sound](#), [music](#)

Coyle, Carmela LaVigna. Wild Zoo Train. Muddy Boots, 2017.

With the use of onomatopoeia, rhyme, and playful googly-eyed human and animal characters, the book takes readers on an unexpected zoo train ride through various biomes instead of an actual zoo.

Ages: 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8

Tags: [sound](#), [rhyming](#)

Cyrus, Kurt. Billions of Bricks: A Counting Book about Building. Henry Holt, 2016.

A counting book that leads readers through a day in the life of a construction worker building with bricks.

Ages: 4, 5, 6, 7

Tags: [construction](#), [building](#), [numbers](#)

Daemickem Songju Ma. Cao Chong Weighs an Elephant. Arbordale Publishing, 2017.

Some 2,000 years ago in China, a curious boy named Cao Chong solves the problem of how to weigh an elephant when the prime minister's most trusted and knowledgeable advisors are stumped. Includes experiments and explanations at the conclusion of the book.

Ages: 4, 5, 6, 7, 8

Tags: [problem-solving](#), [weight](#), [perseverance](#)

Dahl, Michael. Roll, Slope, and Slide: A Book About Ramps. Picture Window Books, 2006.

A fun, well-illustrated text about ramps of all kinds with simple text. Includes an activity, brief, fun facts, and glossary. Suitable for storytime.

Ages: 4, 5, 6

Tags: [storytime](#)

Daywalt, Drew. The Day the Crayons Quit. Philomel Books, 2013.

Each crayon in the box writes a letter explaining how they want to be used and what they like about coloring to Duncan, who finds a way to make them all happy. Funny, imaginative, and provocative for young makers.

Ages: 5, 6, 7

Tags: [color](#), [creativity](#), [imagination](#)

Daywalt, Drew. What Is Inside This Box? Orchard Books, 2019.

A play on Schrodinger's paradox, Monkey has a big box, which he tells Cake has a cat inside, but only when the box is closed. Cake suggests that maybe it's a dinosaur instead, and the two friends puzzle over how they can solve the problem of finding out what's in the box if it's always empty when opened.

Ages: 4, 5, 6, 7, 8

Tags: [cooperation](#), [problem-solving](#)

Dershewitz, Laura and Susan Romberg. The House That Cleaned Itself. Innovation Press, 2019.

Extremely interesting picture book biography of Frances Gabe, a woman inventor who designed a self-cleaning house that never quite caught on. Although she never experienced commercial success, Frances Gabe embodied the virtues of the maker mindset, such as problem-solving, persistence, and innovative thinking. Perfect book for slightly older little makers. This book would serve eminently as a touch-off point for discussion in a story-sharing experience.

Ages: 5, 6, 7

Tags: [inventions](#), [biography](#), [maker mindset](#)

Derting, Kimberly. Cece Loves Science. Greenwillow Books, 2018.

A fascinating story of a school-aged girl, intrigued by the scientific process of investigation as she formulates an experiment with her pet dog. Scientific terms are utilized and explained in the text and again in a supplement to the book. This book, although very good, might be better for slightly older children than preschool.

Ages: 4, 5, 6, 7, 8

Tags: [problem-solving](#), [experiment](#)

DeRubertis, Barbara. Lulu's Lemonade. Kane Press, 2000.

Story of kids making lemonade for a stand. Includes volume measurement and a recipe, along with a liquid measurement chart at the end of the story.

Ages: 5+

Tags: [making](#), [cooperation](#)

Dickson, Irene. Blocks: Let's Share. Candlewick Press, 2016.

Ruby has red blocks. Benji has blue blocks. But what happens when they won't share?

Ages: 2, 3

Tags: [collaboration](#), [building](#)

Dodd, Emma. Dog's Colorful Day. Dutton Children's Books, 2001.

New classic with simple text and bright, colorful illustrations. So easy to use in a myriad of ways as extension activities.

Ages: 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

Tags: [color](#), [numbers](#)

Dorros, Arthur. Feel the Wind. HarperCollins, 1989.

This is an informative book with pencil drawings. It's easy to comprehend, discusses kites, weather, airplane and windmills. Includes simple directions to make a weathervane.

Ages: 4, 5, 6

Tags: [wind](#)

Dorros, Arthur. Me and My Shadow. Scholastic, Inc., 1990.

Another excellent shadow book with watercolor illustrations. Includes a little more sophisticated discussion of the properties of shadows, such as using shadows in illustrations to make them appear more lifelike, planetary shadows, shadow puppets and theater, and X-rays. Uses more sophisticated text.

Ages: 3, 4, 5, 6

Tags: [light](#), [shadow](#)

Doudna, Kelly. The Kids' Book of Simple Machines: Cool Projects and Activities that Make Science Fun. Mighty Media Kids, 2015.

Easy fun experiments with everyday materials for kids to do. A good reference tool for parents and children together. A child wouldn't be able to complete these activities without assistance and supervision.

Ages: 5+

Tags: [simple machines](#)

Ehlert, Lois. Leaf Man. Harcourt, 2005.

Beautifully illustrated lyrical classic book displaying fall leaves arranged as all sorts of patterns and animal shapes. Great for stimulating creative activities.

Ages: 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

Tags: [wind](#), [imagination](#), [making](#)

Emberley, Rebecca. The Ant and the Grasshopper. Roaring Brook Press, 2012.

A delightful twist on Aesop's fable is created by cut-paper illustrations and New Orleans jazz music. A musical grasshopper accompanies a hard-working ant through a day's work, culminating with a party underground in the ant's home.

Ages: 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

Tags: [sound](#), [rhyme](#), [music](#)

Ernst, Lisa Campbell. Round Like a Ball. Blue Apple Books, 2008.

A toy moveable book with progressively larger die cut holes that lead to a large fold-out globe. A nice book to share with a group, as it incorporates an entertaining guessing game as well as a concluding page of suggested ways to nurture the earth.

Ages: 2, 3, 4

Tags: [storytime](#), [shapes](#), [toy book](#)

Evans, David & Claudette Williams. Make It Balance. Dorling Kindersley, 1992.

Investigates, through simple experiments, the basic principles of balance and explores the concepts of gravity, mass, force, and weight.

Ages: 4, 5, 6, 7, 8

Tags: [gravity](#), [weight](#)

Evans, David & Claudette Williams. Make It Go. Dorling Kindersley, 1992.

Inclusive photos of children engaged in all kinds of play and activities illustrating basic physics principles. Clear, simple text with interactive questions, activities, and experiments. An excellent book to stimulate curiosity and comprehension.

Ages: 4, 5, 6

Tags: [diversity](#), [motion](#)

Evans, David and Claudette Williams. Sound and Music. Dorling Kindersley, 1993.

Detailed descriptions of how to make sounds and simple music with everyday objects.

Numerous photographs of children using objects, including made objects, as well as their own bodies to discover sounds.

Ages: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5

Tags: [sound](#), [creativity](#), [maker mindset](#)

Falwell, Cathryn. Shape Space. Clarion Books, 1992.

A young dancer dances her way among geometric shapes.

Ages: 4, 5, 6

Tags: [shapes](#), [creativity](#)

Fleming, Candace. Papa's Mechanical Fish. Ferrar, Strauss & Giroux, 2013.

Entertaining story of a tinkering father, based on the real-life inventor Lodner Phillips, working persistently on his idea of a submersible mechanical fish while his family cheers him on through his many failed attempts. Eminently suitable for group readings for older little makers.

Ages: 5, 6, 7, 8

Tags: [maker mindset](#), [making](#), [perseverance](#), [invention](#)

Fleming, Meg. Ready, Set, Build. Little Bee Books, 2017.

A builder sketches a project, then gets to work with his friend digging, lifting, and sawing.

Ages: 4, 5, 6, 7, 8

Tags: [collaboration](#), [planning](#), [building](#), [construction](#)

Fliess, Sue. Mary Had a Little Lab. Albert Whitman & Company, 2018.

Hoping for a friend, Mary invents a way to make a sheep, but when she starts making sheep for her new friends, chaos abounds.

Ages: 3, 4, 5

Tags: [invention](#), [experiment](#), [maker mindset](#)

Foster, John. Dinosaur Rap. Barefoot Books, 2017.

The colorful illustrations and rhythmic text inspire movement and dance, while also describing the sounds each dinosaur might have made.

Ages: 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8

Tags: [sound](#), [rhyme](#), [music](#)

Fowler, Allan. All the Colors of the Rainbow. Scholastic, 2002.

Excellent first explanation of rainbows, sunlight, prisms, and color blending. Science terminology simply explained with photographs and easily comprehended text. Includes suggestions for simple exploratory activities.

Ages: 4, 5, 6, 7

Tags: [color](#), [experiment](#)

Fraze, Marla. Roller Coaster. Harcourt, 2003.

Twelve people set aside their fears and ride a roller coaster, including one who has never done so before.

Ages: 4, 5, 6, 7

Tags: [motion](#)

Gammell, Stephen. Mudkin. Carolrhoda Books, 2011.

This book is best shared one-on-one as opposed to a group. There is very little text, and most of the charm is intrinsic to muddy goopy playtimes and imaginative illustrations. There's a lot to look at on each page; however, some children might not appreciate its lack of an easily interpreted storyline.

Ages: 4, 5, 6+

Tags: [creativity](#), [collaboration](#), [imagination](#)

George, Lindsay Barrett. Maggie's Ball. Greenwillow Books, 2010.

Best for the youngest of children, this is the story of a small dog who loses her yellow ball that rolls into town and is mistaken for other round yellow objects. Nice, bright, large illustrations suitable for sharing with a group.

Ages: 1, 2, 3

Tags: [motion](#), [storytime](#), [shapes](#)

Gibbons, Gail. How a House is Built. Holiday House, 1990.

Describes how the surveyor, heavy machinery operators, carpenter crew, plumbers, and other workers build a house.

Ages: 4, 5, 6, 7, 8

Tags: [collaboration](#), [building](#), [planning](#)

Gibbs, Edward. I Spy on the Farm. Templar Books, 2013.

Simple large illustrations incorporating a guessing game for the littlest ones.

Ages: 1, 2, 3

Tags: [color](#), [numbers](#)

Glover, David. Ramps and Wedges. Rigby Interactive Library, 1997.

Good informative book demonstrating all types of ramps and wedges employed in daily life. Includes fun facts as an aside as well as a glossary at the end of the book. Probably best read with an adult.

Ages: 6+

Tags: [ramps](#), [tools](#)

Godwin, Jane. Bear Make Den. Candlewick Press, 2017.

Sweet book showing a maker bear who builds his den, furniture, toys, and art but finally discovers he needs friends to share everything he's made. Very limited simple text and expressive pictures narrate the story.

Ages: 3, 4

Tags: [making](#), [creativity](#)

Goldsaito, Katrina. The Sound of Silence. Little, Brown Books for Young Readers, 2016.

A young boy takes a walk through Tokyo on a rainy day and learns from a musician about "Ma," the silence between sounds. Throughout his day, he seeks "Ma" amidst the numerous sounds of the city. The detailed line art with color added digitally is a special feature of this book.

Ages: 5, 6, 7, 8

Tags: [sound](#), [music](#), [imagination](#)

Gonyea, Mark. The Spooky Box. Henry Holt, 2013.

After viewing scary things that might slither, slice, or slide their way out of a creepy black box, the reader is asked to lift the top to reveal its contents.

Ages: 4, 5, 6, 7, 8

Tags: [imagination](#)

Greene, Carol. Please, Wind? Children's Press, 1982.

Straightforward one- and two-word text with drawings of a little girl playing in the wind.

Ages: 1, 2

Tags: [wind](#)

Gregoire, Maryellen. We All Have Shadows. Capstone Press, 2014.

Some parts of the book can be used with younger children, but suggested activities would work better with an older child. Good, clear photographs, simple text. Includes brief glossary and internet sites.

Ages: 4, 5, 6

Tags: [shadow](#), [experiment](#)

Hale, Christy. Dreaming Up: A Celebration of Building. Lee and Low, 2013.

Illustrations accompanied by rhyming text of children constructing structures with all sorts of repurposed materials: cardboard tubes, Lego, sticks, pillows, sand, and water. Each illustration is mirrored with a photograph of an actual building mimicking the design. Very useful as a demonstrable suggestion for exploring materials.

Ages: 3, 4, 5

Tags: [building](#), [imagination](#), [creativity](#)

Hamanaka, Sheila. All the Colors of the Earth. Morrow, 1994.

Reveals in verse that children everywhere are essentially the same despite outward differences, and all are lovable.

Ages: 4 and up

Tags: [diversity](#), [rhyming](#)

Hill, Melanie H. Around the Table That Grandad Built. Candlewick Press, 2019.

A cumulative tale, reminiscent of the House that Jack Built, told with simple text and bright pictures of an interracial family that gathers with friends and neighbors to share a meal around a table that grandad built.

Ages: 3, 4, 5

Tags: [diversity](#), [collaboration](#), [making](#)

Hoban, Tana. Round and Round and Round. Greenwillow Books, 1983.

Color photos without text feature objects that are round.

Ages: 2, 3, 4

Tags: [shapes](#), [imagination](#), [wordless](#)

Hubbell, Patricia. Pots and Pans. HarperCollins, 1998.

Simplistic text and illustrations demonstrate the antics and sounds of a baby banging pots and pans in the cupboards.

Ages: 1, 2

Tags: [sound](#)

Hunter, Charlotte. Windmills. Rourke Educational Media, 2017.

Simple text explaining the technology of windmills with bright photographs. Includes before and after activities for educators and a picture glossary.

Ages: 4, 5, 6

Tags: [energy](#), [wind](#)

Huntington, Amy. One Monday. Orchard Books, 2001.

Over the course of a week, the wind plays havoc all around Annabelle's farm.

Ages: 5, 6

Tags: [wind](#), [cause and effect](#)

Hutchins, Pat. Changes, Changes. Macmillan, 1971.

Two wooden dolls rearrange wooden building blocks to form various objects.

Ages: 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8

Tags: [building](#), [creativity](#), [repurpose](#)

Hutchins, Pat. The Wind Blew. Aladdin, 1974.

Classic picture book with simple, predictable rhyming text and clear illustrations. Perfect for small groups or individual readings. There's lots to see and anticipate by examining the pictures closely.

Ages: 3, 4, 5

Tags: [wind](#)

Intriago, Patricia. Dot. Farrar Straus Giroux, 2011.

Illustrates imagination in graphic design using only a circle dot.

Ages: 3, 4, 5, 6

Tags: [creativity](#), [imagination](#), [shapes](#)

Isern, Susanna. The Magic Ball of Wool. Cuento de Luz, 2013.

Sweet watercolor illustrations. A hedgehog finds a ball of wool that he proceeds to knit into garments for his friends. The finished pieces magically transform into desired objects that ultimately are returned to the hedgehog to reknit into a strong rope to rescue a beached whale. Probably not the best choice to illustrate motion or ramps, but it definitely illustrates the concept of making-over.

Ages: 3, 4, 5

Tags: [repurpose](#), [cooperation](#)

Ivinson, Yvonne. Fox and the Box. Greenwillow Books, 2019.

A fox sets out on a grand adventure full of endless possibilities in a floating box across the sea. Simple, rhyming text makes this a fun read.

Ages: 4, 5, 6, 7, 8

Tags: [motion](#)

James, Nancy Johnson. Brown: The Many Shades of Love. Cameron Kids, 2020.

Multicultural, sweet, and loving discussion of the shades of brown.

Ages: 3, 4, 5

Tags: [color](#), [diversity](#)

James, Simon. Frog and Beaver. Candlewick, 2018.

Beaver is determined to build the biggest and best dam anyone has ever seen, and he doesn't stop to think about what that will mean for everyone else's homes. Frog tries to tell Beaver that his dam is getting too big, but Beaver just won't listen. Before long, Beaver's dam is so huge that it stops all the water in the river, and Frog and his friends must move upstream. But diverted water also needs somewhere to go, and soon Beaver learns that there's only one force stronger than a mighty river.

Ages: 3, 4, 5, 6, 7

Tags: [water](#)

Jeffers, Oliver. What We'll Build: Plans for Our Together Future. Philomel Books, 2020.

Imaginative story of a loving dad and his daughter using tools and philosophy to build life-sustaining objects and life-enriching values. Best used in individual or small group readings to allow for reflection.

Ages: 4, 5, 6, 7, 8

Tags: [imagination](#), [collaboration](#)

Johnson, Amy Crane. A Home for Pearl Squirrel. Raven Tree Press, 2009.

The story of Pearl Squirrel's first built nest, which she celebrates by inviting all the other animals of the forest to see, only to discover that her house suits no one but herself. Includes an explanation of the concept of habitat.

Ages: 4, 5, 6

Tags: [building](#), [house](#)

Johnson, D.B. Henry Builds a Cabin. Houghton Mifflin, 2002.

Young Henry Thoreau appears frugal to his friends as he sets about building a cabin. Includes biographical information about Thoreau.

Ages: 4, 5, 6, 7

Tags: [building](#), [house](#)

Jones, Pip. Izzy Gizmo and the Invention Convention. Peachtree Publishing Company Inc. 2019.

Izzy Gizmo is invited to an inventing competition, where a greedy competitor forces her to improvise.

Ages: 4, 5, 6

Tags: [invention](#), [imagination](#)

Joyce, William. The Fantastic Flying Books of Mr. Morris Lessmore. Atheneum, 2012.

Morris Lessmore loves words, stories, and books, and after a tornado carries him to another land, dreary and colorless, he finds a single book in color that leads him to an amazing library where, he learns, the books need him as much as he needs them.

Ages: 4, 5, 6, 7, 8

Tags: [wind](#), [imagination](#)

Karg, Michael. I Am the Wind. Page Street Kids, 2020.

Beautifully illustrated lyrical description of the wind throughout the world with a concluding page describing the creatures encountered in the book.

Ages: 3, 4, 5, 6

Tags: [wind](#)

Keely, Cheryl. A Book of Bridges: Here to There and Me to You. Sleeping Bear Press, 2017.

Simple text describes bridges, from the most basic of stepping-stone bridges to suspension bridges, with supplemental text giving pertinent information concerning specific famous bridges. Suitable for a wide age group.

Ages: 4, 5, 6, 7, 8

Tags: [engineering](#), [problem-solving](#), [simple machines](#)

Kimura, Yuichi. On the Seesaw Bridge. Vertical, 2011.

Delightful fable concerning a fox chasing a rabbit over a single log bridge that collapses into a seesaw device, trapping them both long enough to explore their similarities and differences. The humor is extraordinary, and the illustrations are engaging and evocative of their Japanese origins. Strongly recommended for group discussions and sharing.

Ages: 4, 5, 6, 7, 8

Tags: [collaboration](#), [problem-solving](#), [simple machines](#)

Kisloski, Carolyn. We Have a Box. Rourke Educational Media, 2018.

This is a simplistic story with an abbreviated text of two little girls playing with an empty cardboard box, making several typical things, a house, car, plane. Suitable for the youngest children.

Ages: 2, 3

Tags: [imagination](#), [making](#)

Knowles, Laura. We Build Our Homes: Small Stories of Incredible Animal Architects. Words & Pictures, 2018.

Lovely lyrical, reference-type book illustrating the myriad of structures built by birds, insects, and animals throughout the world. Each of 26 creatures are portrayed on double-page spreads accompanied by brief text describing the creature and the method of building their shelters.

Ages: 4, 5, 6, 7, 8

Tags: [building](#), [collaboration](#)

Knutson, Kimberley. Muddigush. Maxwell Macmillan International, 1992.

The alliteration in the text is marvelous and inspires the reader to experience the mud's gushiness. A perfect lead-in to mud and water play!

Ages: 3, 4, 5, 6

Tags: [sound](#), [imagination](#)

Kyung, Hyewon. Bigger Than You. Greenwillow Books, 2018.

Simple text and pictures illustrate the concept of size and weight on a balance beam as young dinosaurs play on a prehistoric playground. The book concludes with a vocabulary and picture display of various sizes in relation to each other. Suitable for storytime.

Ages: 2.5, 3, 4

Tags: [weight](#), [cooperation](#)

Leathers, Philippa. The Black Rabbit. Candlewick Press, 2013.

Amusing story of a little rabbit frustrated by his shadow always following him until he meets a real foe.

Ages: 4, 5, 6

Tags: [light](#), [shadow](#)

Lee, Suzy. Shadow. Chronicle Books, 2010.

Wordless strongly graphic book that uses two colors to explore a little girl's imagination in a storage room lit by one lightbulb. As her imagination takes over, the pictures become colored in bright yellow. Best used one-on-one rather than a group. There's much to be discovered, including one slightly menacing wolfie character who is ultimately befriended.

Ages: 3, 4, 5, 6

Tags: [light](#), [shadow](#), [imagination](#)

Lehn, Barbara. What is a Scientist? Millbrook Press, 1998.

Simple text and photographs depict children engaged in various activities that make up the scientific process.

Ages: 6, 7, 8

Tags: [experiment](#), [problem-solving](#)

Levete, Sarah. A Tale of One Well in Malawi. Capstone Press, 2010.

Did you know that some people in the world don't have enough water? Find out how building a well can help.

Ages: 6, 7, 8, 9

Tags: [water](#)

Levine, Shar and Leslie Johnstone. The Science of Sound and Music. Sterling Publishing, 2000.

Addresses many concepts of sound with fun experiments and a wealth of information on the subject. Experiments are fun and easy to understand, some with help from an adult.

Ages: 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10

Tags: [sound](#), [music](#), [experiments](#)

Light, Steve. Builders and Breakers. Candlewick Press, 2018.

With barely one word per illustration, this book narrates the incongruity of building and simultaneously deconstructing as part of the engineering process. The author ends with “To build anything, something else must be broken, even if it's just ground.” An excellent book to provoke discussion.

Ages: 3, 4, 5, 6

Tags: [building](#), [engineering](#), [group reading](#), [tools](#)

Lillegard, Dee. Sitting in My Box. Dutton, 1989.

Lindstrom, Carole. We Are Water Protectors. Roaring Brook Press, 2020.

Inspired by the many Indigenous-led movements across North America, this book issues an urgent rallying cry to safeguard the Earth's water from harm and corruption.

Ages: 3, 4, 5, 6

Tags: [water](#)

Lionni, Leo. A color of his own. Pantheon Books, 1975.

A distressed chameleon discovers that since he changes color to match whatever he is next to, he will never have a color entirely his own until he meets another chameleon who always offers to travel with him and share his color.

Ages 2, 3, 4, 5

Tags: [color](#), [collaboration](#)

Litwin, Eric. The Nuts: Keep Rolling! Little, Brown Books for Young Readers, 2017.

Simple rhyming text and bright pictures illustrate the tale of two acorns who yearn to be bigger and achieve this by rolling along accumulating mud and debris that increases their size. More entertaining than informing. Includes access to a downloadable song and dance.

Ages: 3, 4

Tags: [cooperation](#), [collaboration](#), [weight](#)

Lloyd, Megan Wagner. Fort-Building Time. Knopf Books for Young Readers, 2017.

Using sweetly illustrated children of many ethnicities, this book exemplifies the pleasures of building forts throughout the different seasons with all the materials supplied by nature, sure to promote creativity in outside play.

Ages: 3, 4, 5, 6

Tags: [building](#), [creativity](#), [diversity](#)

Llyod, Megan. Building Books. Alfred A. Knopf, 2018.

Katie loves building with blocks. She's bored by books. Her brother Owen likes to lose himself in a story. A school librarian convinces them to see the possibilities in the other's hobby.

Ages: 4, 5, 6, 7, 8

Tags: [explore](#)

Long, Greg & Chris Edmundson. Yeti, Turn Out the Light! Chronicle Books, 2013.

Rhyming story of a Yeti frightened in the night by shadows discovered to be only harmless friends in the light. This is an entertaining story for a storytime share without the scientific principles explained.

Ages: 3, 4, 5, 6

Tags: [light](#), [shadow](#), [storytime](#)

Lowery, Lawrence F. Sounds Are High, Sounds Are Low. NSTA Press, 2014.

Part of the I Wonder Why series on physical science. In an inviting, picture book verse form, it introduces concepts of sound, such as pitch and volume, while also acknowledging nice sounds versus unpleasant sounds. Provokes the reader to think of sounds they've heard.

Ages: 5, 6, 7, 8

Tags: [sound](#), [rhyme](#), [music](#)

Lowry, Lawrence. Dark as a Shadow. NSTA Press, 2014.

Rhyming text, clear, attractive illustrations explain shadows and light while also posing questions to the reader. Includes a parent/teacher handbook page and three activities for children to participate in: casting shadows, making silhouettes, and shadow puppets.

Ages: 4, 5, 6

Tags: [light](#), [shadow](#), [experiment](#)

Lyon, George Ella. All the Water in the World. Atheneum Books, 2011.

Briefly explains the water cycle in lyrical verse.

Ages: 4, 5, 6, 7, 8

Tags: [water](#)

MacNeill, Sarah. One House. Orca Book Publishers, 2018.

A board book, created using mixed media, celebrates a neighborhood of critters coming together to build a house for a mouse.

Ages: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5

Tags: [building](#), [collaboration](#)

MacNeill, Sarah. One House. Orca Book Publishers, 2018.

This is a lovely book with charming mixed-media illustrations demonstrating various creatures cooperatively building a house for mice. This classic counting book illustrates some of the steps of building, from drawing plans to finishing keys. Told in rhyming text and a bonus of a final seek and find feature to encourage rereading. Suitable for small group storytime for the youngest makers.

Ages: 1, 2, 3

Tags: [building](#), [collaboration](#), [maker mindset](#)

Maier, Brenda and Sonia Sanchez. The Little Blue Bridge. Scholastic, 2021.

A fast-paced retelling of the classic Three Billy Goats Gruff, this new version breaks gender and cultural stereotypes as little Ruby outsmarts and outbuilds her skeptical brothers. An excellent group sharing book.

Ages: 4, 5, 6, 7

Tags: [repurpose](#), [building](#), [problem-solving](#)

Maier, Brenda and Sonia Sanchez. The Little Red Fort. Scholastic, 2018.

In this spin on The Little Red Hen, Ruby, wants to build something, and she asks her uninterested brothers for help. This book shows the fun, cooperative nature of making, as well as a feminist can-do attitude. An excellent book for sharing with a group.

Ages: 4, 5, 6, 7

Tags: [collaboration](#), [maker mindset](#)

Malbrough, Mike. Marigold Bakes a Cake. Philomel Books, 2017.

A witty, charming story of a cat who prefers to bake alone. Descriptions of measuring concepts, recipe following, and kitchen tools.

Ages: 3, 4, 5, 6

Tags: [making](#)

Manceau, Edouard. Windblown. Owl Kids Books, 2012.

Simple text with the premise that wind has blown several pieces of paper transformed into different animal characters. The wind is less of a factor than the artistic creation of rearranging the shapes. It would be suitable as stimulation for an art project.

Ages: 3, 4, 5

Tags: [wind](#), [shapes](#)

Manning, Maurie J. Kitchen Dance. Clarion Books, 2008.

A girl hears sounds in the night, and she and her brother discover their parents dancing as they put away the dishes. The large, colorfully drawn action coupled with the various sounds from pans, dishes, cabinets, and voices depict the lively scene. As the dancing slows and the children are returned to bed, the quiet of the story is also effectively portrayed.

Ages: 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8

Tags: [sound](#), [imagination](#)

Mara, Nichole. All Aboard! Let's Ride a Train. Abrams Appleseed, 2017.

This book takes readers on a tour of who and what's inside a train. Each car has something to find—things that make loud noises, things in different shapes—and along the way, a little child searches for his missing hat. The back of the book is a running landscape dotted with objects for children to find and count.

Ages: 3, 4, 5

Tags: [diversity](#), [numbers](#), [toy book](#)

Marino, Gianna. Too Tall Houses. Viking, 2012.

Morality tale of two selfish creatures, rabbit and owl, each attempting to build a taller house than the other until they realize less is more and together is better. Suitable for storytime.

Ages: 3, 4, 5, 6

Tags: [building collaboration](#), [compromise](#), [group reading](#)

Marsalis, Wynton. Squeak, Rumble, Whomp! Whomp! Whomp!: A Sonic Adventure. Somerville, MA: Candlewick Press, 2014.

The famous musician and educator Wynton Marsalis introduces the listener/reader (with lively narration and recorded sounds) to sounds all around—indoors, outdoors, sounds made by people, animals, and objects.

Ages: 3, 4, 5, 6

Tags: [sound](#), [imagination](#)

Marshall, Amelia. Digger's Busy Day. Windmill Books, 2017.

This book illustrates and discusses in rhyme all the different vehicles used in building a new road. It concludes with a simple picture glossary explaining the names and parts of different construction vehicles.

Ages: 3, 4, 5

Tags: [simple machines](#), [engineering](#), [collaboration](#)

Marshall, James. The Three Little Pigs. Weston Woods, 2011.

A new twist on a classic tale with signature style illustrations by James Marshall.

Ages: 3, 4, 5, 6

Tags: [building](#), [collaboration](#), [problem-solving](#)

Martin, Dayna. Sounds for Kids Age 1–3. Engage Books, 2015.

From the concept series "Age 1-3", this book includes a single colorful image per page of what or who makes the particular sound, including the word written out, such as "Ah-choo" for sneeze, "Moo" for cow, and "Flush" for toilet.

Ages: 0, 1, 2, 3

Tags: [sound](#), [toy book](#)

Martin, Laura C. Recycled Crafts Box: Sock Puppets, Cardboard Castles, Bottle Bugs & 37 More Earth-Friendly Projects & Activities You Can Create. Storey Kids, 2003.

Discusses recycling and provides information and instructions for making art projects from a variety of recycled materials.

Ages: 8, 9, 10, 11, 12

Tags: [repurpose](#)

Marzollo, Jean. I am Water. Cartwheel, 1996.

Beginning reader that explores the beauty and usefulness of water in its many forms.

Ages: 4, 5, 6, 7, 8

Tags: [water](#)

Mason, Adrienne. Move It! Motion, Forces and You. Kids Can Press, 2005.

Clear text and pictures discuss force, movement, and gravity. Includes interactive questions on each page and simple experimental activities. Two-page spread for parents and teachers with instructions on extending the concepts discussed and an index. Inclusive illustrations of children.

Ages: 3.5, 4, 5, 6

Tags: [diversity](#), [motion](#), [experiment](#)

Mayer, Lynn. Newton and Me. Sylvan Dell Publishing, 2010.

Rhyming text follows a boy playing and experimenting with everyday physics: rolling a ball, pulling a wagon, bicycling in the wind. Includes several pages of definitions, suggested activities, questions, and a mention of Isaac Newton.

Ages: 5, 6, 7

Tags: [motion](#), [experiment](#)

McAnulty, Stacy. Max Explains Everything: Grocery Store Expert. G.P. Putnam's Sons, 2018.

From choosing the perfect cart to navigating the produce section, expert extraordinaire Max explains all there is to know about going to the grocery store.

Ages: 3, 4, 5, 6, 7

Tags: [explore](#)

McCarney-Muldoon, Eileen. Fun with Colors. Aladdin Books, 1992.

Photographed babies displaying simple rainbow colors with a single "guess the color" question on each page.

Ages: 1, 2

Tags: [color](#), [toy book](#)

McLerran, Alice. Roxaboxen. Lothrop, 1990.

A hill covered with rocks and wooden boxes becomes an imaginary town for Marian, her sisters, and their friends.

Ages: 4, 5, 6

Tags: [imagination](#), [making](#), [repurpose](#)

McLerran, Alice. Roxaboxen. Lothrop, Lee & Shepard, 1990.

Wonderful story of a complex play town laid out in stone and occupied by a group of childhood friends who build a whole imaginary life there. This new classic is best for slightly older children.

Ages: 4, 5, 6, 7

Tags: [imagination](#), [creativity](#), [collaboration](#)

McQuinn, Anna. If You're Happy and You Know It! Barefoot Books, 2011.

Sweetly illustrated book shows the popular children's song being sung by children from 36 cultures. Also includes how to say "hello" in the different languages.

Ages: 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8

Tags: [sound](#), [rhyme](#), [diversity](#), [collaboration](#), [creativity](#)

Meshon, Aaron. Tools Rule. Atheneum, 2014.

Using personification, bright, comic illustrations, and lots of puns, this amusing book is about a team of tools getting organized and then spending a busy day building themselves a shed.

Ages: 4, 5, 6, 7, 8

Tags: [tools](#), [building](#)

Monroe, Chris. Monkey with a Tool Belt and the Maniac Muffins. Carolrhoda Books, 2016.

Kids will love this manic story of baking with Monkey. It illustrates a variety of baking kitchen tools and cooking terms while telling an engaging story. It also demonstrates the concept of planning a project and sequencing actions.

Ages: 3, 4, 5, 6+

Tags: [making](#), [problem-solving](#), [tools](#)

Monroe, Chris. Monkey with a Tool Belt and the Noisy Problem. Carolrhoda Books, 2009.

When Chico the monkey wakes up to a loud clatter, he puts on his tool belt and searches his tree house to find what's making the noise, only to discover Clark the elephant stuck in the laundry chute.

Ages: 4, 5, 6, 7, 8

Tags: [problem-solving](#), [tools](#)

Morris, Ann. Houses and Homes (Around the World Series). Lothrop, Lee, and Shepard Books, 1992.

A simple text comparing and contrasting interesting photographs of the dwellings and homes of people around the world. Followed by an index of all the pictured dwellings indicating where they're located. Excellent multicultural introduction for children.

Ages: 4, 5, 6, 7

Tags: [diversity](#), [building](#)

Moss, Lloyd. Zin! Zin! Zin! A Violin. Weston Woods, 2010.

Musical instruments of the orchestra are brought to life with descriptive and rhyming words. With the narration and accompanying music, the reader can compare the descriptive words to the actual sounds of the instruments!

Ages: 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8

Tags: [sound](#), [rhyme](#), [music](#)

Murray, Alison. The House that Zack Built. Somerville, MA: Candlewick Press, 2016.

A retelling of the classic nursery rhyme with Zack building his house with blocks outside surrounded by his mischief-making farm animals. For the very youngest in a group sharing.

Ages: 1, 2, 3, 4

Tags: [imagination](#), [rhyming](#)

Narahashi, Keiko. I Have a Friend. Margaret K. McElderry Books, 1987.

Abbreviated text, nice pictures for younger children just beginning to explore the concept of shadows.

Ages: 3, 4, 5

Tags: [light](#), [shadow](#)

Neitzel, Shirley. We're Making Breakfast for Mother. Greenwillow Books, 1997.

Much of this book's appeal is the rebus aspect of the text, which would appeal to younger children. The concept of the book emphasizes the gathering of materials in preparation for the actual making.

Ages: 2, 3, 4

Tags: [collaboration](#), [making](#)

Nelson, Robin. What Do Pliers Do? Lerner Publications Company, 2013.

Nelson, Robin. What Does a Hammer Do? Lerner Publications Company, 2013.

Nelson, Robin. What Does a Level Do? Lerner Publications Company, 2013.

Nelson, Robin. What Does a Screwdriver Do? Lerner Publications Company, 2013.

Using very simple language and only a few sentences per page, these titles introduce common tools. Each book shows the parts of the subject (which are easy to identify in close-up photos) and explains how the item is used and by whom. All the volumes include a list of safety tips at the end. Color photos show a multicultural cast of boys, girls, and adults using wrenches, hammers, etc., most wearing the necessary safety equipment. A page at the back of each title explains how the tools are simple machines.

Ages: 5, 6, 7, 8

Tags: [tools](#), [safety](#)

Nevius, Carol. Building with Dad. Marshall Cavendish Corp., 2006.

A father and his young child watch the construction of the new school, from the bulldozing of earth and mixing of concrete for the foundation to the hanging of the new sign.

Ages: 3, 4, 5, 6, 7

Tags: [building](#), [tools](#)

Nunn, Daniel. Shadows and Reflections (Light All Around Us). Heinemann, 2012.

Excellent pictorial explanation of light and shadows with parent/teacher notes and a short glossary.

Ages: 4, 5, 6

Tags: [light](#), [shadow](#)

O'Hara, Natalia and Lauren. Hortense and the Shadow. Little, Brown Books for Young Readers, 2017.

Hortense hates her shadow for following her everywhere and thinks her shadow hates her, too, but when she faces bandits, she finds that a shadow is just what she needs. This book—although rather intense and perhaps a little unsettling for sensitive children—is very reminiscent of a classic fairytale with its dark and light, good and evil themes ultimately climaxing in a happily-ever-after conclusion. Perfect for an older storytime.

Ages: 5, 6, 7

Tags: [light](#), [shadow](#), [storytime](#)

One day, Harry's bright red cardboard helicopter takes off with him in a gust of wind and gives him a thrilling ride.

Ages: 4, 5, 6, 7, 8

Tags: [imagination](#), [making](#), [motion](#)

Otoshi, Kathryn. One. KO Kids Books, 2008.

Using colors primary and secondary to illustrate emotions, bullying, and compromise concepts. Excellent on many levels.

Ages: 4, 5, 6

Tags: [color](#), [compromise](#)

Owen, Ruth. Kids cook. Windmill Books, 2017.

Colorful cookbook for kids with lots of photographs and fairly sophisticated recipes, including making pizza dough from scratch. Explains the use of many kitchen tools and encourages creativity in food prep.

Ages: 5+

Tags: [making](#), [creativity](#), [tools](#)

Pam Munoz. Mud Is Cake. Hyperion Books for Children, 2002.

Sweet, full-page, beautiful illustrations. Primarily dealing with imagination and repurposing objects. There are other more pertinent books for Little Maker mindsets, but you could certainly make a case for this one.

Ages: 2, 3, 4

Tags: [repurpose](#), [making](#), [imagination](#)

Pantone. Pantone Colors. Abrams Appleseed, 2012.

Introduces children to 9 basic colors and 20 shades of each. Demonstrates the concept that one color name actually refers to a variety of dark, light, and in-between tones.

Ages: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5

Tags: [color](#)

Percival, Tom. Jack's Amazing Shadow. Pavilion's Children, 2013.

Story of a boy with a magical shadow who does naughty things that Jack gets blamed for. The shadow is banished until Jack realizes he misses it and reunites with his shadow. The pictures are big, cartoonish, and bright; the storyline is a little weak, although the end is cute. The endpapers of the book display hand gestures to make shadow puppets.

Ages: 4, 5

Tags: [light](#), [shadow](#)

Pfeffer, Wendy. Sounds All Around. HarperCollins, 1999.

Part of a science series, this book has a good deal of information about the purpose of sounds in the lives of both humans and animals. Engaging illustrations. Some of it may be above the age range of Little Makers, but it's still a good resource.

Ages: 5, 6, 7, 8

Tags: [sound](#)

Pinkney, Brian. J. Max Found Two Sticks. Aladdin Paperbacks, 1997.

A beautifully illustrated story about a boy who discovers he can imitate sounds around his city with his makeshift drumsticks.

Ages: 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8

Tags: [sound](#), [imagination](#), [creativity](#)

Portis, Antoinette. A Penguin Story. HarperCollins Publishers, 2008.

Edna, the penguin, only knows the colors black, white, and blue, but there has to be something more out there. The spare but humorous geometric illustrations propel Edna's vision and her ultimate discovery of Antarctic scientists dressed in bright orange. But, the next day, Edna dreams, "What else could there be?"

Ages: 4, 5, 6, 7, 8

Tags: [color](#), [explore](#), [imagination](#)

Portis, Antoinette. Not a Box. HarperCollins, 2006.

To an imaginative bunny, a box isn't always just a box.

Ages: 2, 3, 4

Tags: [imagination](#)

Potter, Giselle. This Is My Dollhouse. Schwartz & Wade Books, 2016.

Charming story of a little girl hand-making her own dollhouse with imagination and found supplies and comparing it to the perfect store-bought dollhouse that belongs to her friend. Includes lots of ideas sure to stimulate a child's imagination. Very useful as inspiration for a group project. The reverse of the paper book jacket has even more crafting ideas.

Ages: 4, 5, 6, 7

Tags: [making](#), [imagination](#), [creativity](#)

Prince, April Jones. Twenty-One Elephants and Still Standing. Houghton Mifflin, 2005.

Brief retelling of the historical opening of the Brooklyn Bridge when P.T. Barnum proved the soundness of the structure by leading 21 elephants across its length to the delight of crowds.

Ages: 4, 5, 6, 7

Tags: [engineering](#), [ramps](#), [weight](#)

Pritchett, Dylan. The First Music. August House, Inc., 2006.

A playful story of animals making their different noises, realizing in the end that they're making music.

Ages: 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8

Tags: [sound](#), [collaboration](#), [creativity](#)

Provinsen, Alice and Martin. The Glorious Flight. Viking Press, 1983.

The story of the first flight across the English Channel from France by Louis Bleriot. Useful in demonstrating the virtues of collaboration and perseverance in the inventive process. Some challenging vocabulary.

Ages: 5, 6

Tags: [problem-solving](#), [perseverance](#), [invention](#)

Raschka, Chris. A Ball for Daisy. Schwartz & Wade Books, 2011.

A wordless story done in child-friendly watercolors of a dog energetically and enthusiastically playing with her red ball. Very useful in a small storytime to elicit descriptive, narrative, and language skills in children.

Ages: 2, 3, 4, 5

Tags: [motion](#), [collaboration](#), [wordless](#)

Reidy, Jean. Busy Builders, Busy Week! Bloomsbury, 2016.

A cast of animal characters build a new playground in a local park, and each day of the week contains a different construction plan. Simple rhyming text complements colorful, elaborate illustrations.

Ages: 3, 4, 5, 6

Tags: [collaboration](#), [construction](#), [rhyme](#)

Reynolds, Peter H. Going Places. Atheneum Books for Young Readers, 2014.

Short story of boy and girl teaming up to create an unusual conveyance to win the school race. Demonstrates out-of-the-box thinking and imagination.

Ages: 4, 5, 6, 7, 8

Tags: [cooperation](#), [collaboration](#), [imagination](#), [problem-solving](#)

Rinker, Sherri Duskey. Mighty, Mighty Construction Site. Chronicle Books, LLC, 2017.

Companion book to *Goodnight, Goodnight Construction Site*. Vibrant, cartoon-like figures of every possible kind of construction vehicle work together building their largest project yet. Rhyming text.

Ages: 3, 4, 5, 6

Tags: [construction](#), [collaboration](#), [problem-solving](#)

Rissman, Rebecca. Simple Machines. Heinemann, 2013.

Clear large photographs and simple abbreviated text explaining all different types of machines— including levers, planes, wedges—and how they work. Easily comprehended.

Ages: 4, 5, 6

Tags: [ramps](#), [tools](#), [simple machines](#)

Ritchie, Scott. Look Where We Live!: A First Book of Community Building. Kids Can Press, 2015.

Illustrative text follows children moving through their neighborhood engaging in all kinds of collaborative activities, such as street fairs, community gardens, and fundraising for their local library. Includes asides on each page clearly identifying vocabulary words and concepts.

Ages: 4, 5, 6, 7

Tags: [diversity](#), [making](#), [collaboration](#)

Robert, Na'ima Bint. Kojo's Shadow. Cricket Media, 2016.

Sweet short story of a baby elephant discovering his shadow.

Ages: 2, 3, 4

Tags: [shadow](#)

Ross, Michael. Sandbox Scientist: Real Science Activities for Little Kids. Chicago Review Press, 1995.

This book has a myriad of ideas for exciting experiments and activities for young children in all aspects of STEM. Each setup is followed by a description of the results from real children engaging in the activities—an excellent resource for parents and caregivers.

Ages: 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7

Tags: [science](#), [maker mindset](#), [making](#)

Russo, Marisabina. The Big Brown Box. Greenwillow Books, 2000.

As he plays in a very large box in his room and turns it into a house, then a cave, then a boat, Sam is reluctant to let his little brother Ben join him, but then he finds the perfect way for them to share.

Ages: 4, 5, 6, 7, 8

Tags: [cooperation](#), [making](#), [problem-solving](#), [repurpose](#)

Rylant, Cynthia. Night in the Country. Bradbury Press, 1986.

With illustrations that match the peaceful tone, the book is a vivid description of sounds that could be heard in the country at night. Can spark the imagination of the reader, as well as transport them to the nighttime country scene.

Ages: 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8

Tags: [sound](#), [imagination](#)

Saltzberg, Barney. Beautiful Oops. Workman Publishing, 2010.

This tactile toy moveable book illustrates the progression of creativity and imagination. A mistake, a flaw, is the precursor to something new and wondrous. An excellent book that demonstrates the value of persistence and patience.

Ages: 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8

Tags: [imagination](#), [color](#), [creativity](#), [perseverance](#), [toy book](#)

Sanders, Rob. Ball and Balloon. Margaret K. McElderry Books, 2019.

Simple text comparing and contrasting the forces of gravity anthropomorphically on a ball and a helium-filled balloon.

Ages: 3, 4, 5

Tags: [imagination](#), [motion](#), [weight](#)

Scanlon, Liz Garton and Lee White. Kate, Who Tamed the Wind. Schwartz and Wade Books, 2018.

This is a lovely story explaining how one kind and creative little girl planted trees as a wind block for a lonely man at the top of a windy hill. Stunning watercolor pictures illustrate the girl planning and carrying out her solution. Includes an afterword that explains how trees are valuable to the ecology of the land and suggestions for involvement.

Ages: 4, 5, 6

Tags: [wind](#), [problem-solving](#)

Schanzer, Rosalyn. How Ben Franklin Stole the Lightning. HarperCollins, 2003.

This book focuses on Benjamin Franklin's role as an inventor of whimsical gadgets and practical contraptions, emphasizing his experiment of flying a kite during a rainstorm.

Ages: 4, 5, 6, 7, 8

Tags: [biography](#), [experiment](#), [imagination](#), [invention](#), [perseverance](#)

Scribens, Sunny. My Friend Robot! Barefoot Books, 2017.

This book is about children building a treehouse with the help of their robot. Words set to the tune of "London Bridge is Falling Down."

Ages: 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8

Tags: [tools](#), [music](#), [building](#)

Seuling, Barbara. Flick a Switch: How Electricity Gets to Your Home. Holiday House, 2003.

Describes how electricity was discovered, how early devices were invented to make use of it, and how it's generated in power plants and then distributed for many different uses.

Ages: 4, 5, 6, 7, 8

Tags: [energy](#), [invention](#)

Shannon, George. White Is for Blueberry. Greenwillow Books, 2005.

Illustrates the complexity of color and that which cannot be at first seen or identified.

Sophisticated concept.

Ages: 2, 3, 4

Tags: [color](#)

Shapiro, J.H. Magic Trash: A Story of Tyree Guyton and His Art. Charlesbridge, 2011.

Paintbrush in hand, Tyree Guyton casts his artistic spell, turning everyday junk into magic trash.

Ages: 5, 6, 7, 8

Tags: [creativity](#), [imagination](#), [making](#), [biography](#)

Sharkey, Niamh. The Gigantic Turnip. Barefoot Books, 2005.

A modern adaptation of this well-known Russian folktale. Farmers enlist the help of the farm animals to pull up an enormous turnip!

Ages: 2, 3, 4, 5

Tags: [cooperation](#), [cause and effect](#)

Shaw, Nancy E. Sheep in a Jeep. Houghton Mifflin, 1986.

This rhyming book is ideal for simplifying the topics of force and motion.

Ages: 2, 3

Tags: [motion](#), [cooperation](#)

Sheffield, Heidi Woodward. Brick by Brick. Nancy Paulsen Books, 2020.

As a little boy watches his father, a bricklayer, work hard to build the city, both dream of building a house of their own. Interspersed with Spanish language and obvious affection between family members. Very charming for the youngest storytime.

Ages: 3, 4, 5, 6

Tags: [making](#), [construction](#), [diversity](#)

Shores, Erika L. How to Make Bubbles. Capstone Press, 2018.

Simplistic text illustrates a child's method for making bubbles and wands from household items. Includes a glossary, additional reading suggestions, and websites.

Ages: 4, 5, 6, 7

Tags: [creativity](#), [making](#)

Showers, Paul. The Listening Walk. HarperCollins, 1991.

A father and daughter take their dog on a walk. Readers can follow along in noticing the sounds all around them. The reader can have fun repeating sounds described in the story, such as the sound of the dog's toenails on the sidewalk, "twick, twick."

Ages: 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8

Tags: [sound](#)

Shulman, Lisa. Old MacDonald Had a Woodshop. G.P. Putnam, 2002.

A female Old MacDonald uses a myriad of woodworking tools, all making distinctive sounds, in her shop to construct a surprise. Endsheets identify various hand tools hanging neatly on a pegboard. Easy, fun sing-along for storytime.

Ages: 3, 4, 5

Tags: [making](#), [collaboration](#), [rhyme](#), [storytime](#)

Silverman, Buffy. Me and My Shadow: A Book About Light. Rourke Educational Media, 2011.

Excellent pictorial explanation of light and shadows with limited parent/teacher suggestions and a short glossary.

Ages: 4, 5, 6

Tags: [light](#), [shadow](#)

Smith, Sian. Screws, Nuts, and Bolts. Heinemann Library, 2012.

Clear photographs and brief simple text explain how toys work mechanically.

Ages: 4, 5, 6

Tags: [simple machines](#)

Snider, Grant. What Sound is Morning? Chronicle Books, 2020.

This book invites young listeners to "fill the world with your song" as they explore early morning city sounds, home sounds, and country sounds. Lights click on, and a baby babbles, sprinklers hiss, a rooster crows, a man shouts after a bus, hungry stomachs rumble, and frogs plop into a stream. A saturated color palette showcases yellow, orange, pink, and red expanding across the horizon; buildings and streets are dark green and blue in the foreground.

Ages: 2, 3, 4, 5

Tags: [sound](#), [group reading](#), [music](#)

Soto, Gary. Chato's Kitchen. Putnam's, 1995.

Excellent use of Spanish language and culture and a good storyline, but only a brief mention of food preparation.

Ages: 5, 6, 7

Tags: [making](#), [diversity](#)

Spangler, Lois. The Fort on Fourth Street: A Story About the Six Simple Machines. Sylvan Dell Publishing, 2013.

Building a fort in the backyard, a grandfather and granddaughter get help from six simple machines: lever, pulley, inclined plane, wheel and axle, screw, and wedge. Includes teaching activities at the end, matching vocabulary, measuring tool quiz questions, and prompts for planning and building your own fort.

Ages: 5, 6, 7, 8

Tags: [building](#), [simple machines](#)

Spires, Ashley. The Most Magnificent Thing. Kids Can Press, 2014.

A young girl has a wonderful idea about something she will build. She tries and tries, but it's just not working out right. Her anger and frustration grow. After her faithful dog convinces her to step away, she can return to the project and continue trying. An excellent representation of the maker spirit.

Ages: 4, 5, 6, 7

Tags: [engineering](#), [making](#), [perseverance](#)

Spiro, Ruth. Made by Maxine. Dial Books for Young Readers, 2018.

A super entertaining story of an indomitable little girl constructing and deconstructing her imaginative ideas to accommodate her favorite pet fish. Excellent use of STEM vocabulary. Best for individual or small group storytime because of the intricacy of the illustrations.

Ages: 4, 5, 6

Tags: [problem-solving](#), [imagination](#), [experiment](#), [cause and effect](#)

Steggall, Susan. Red Car, Red Bus. Frances Lincoln Children's, 2012.

Follows a red bus along the road as it's joined by cars, vans, trucks, and motorcycles of different colors.

Ages: 3, 4, 5, 6

Tags: [color](#)

Steig, William. Pete's a Pizza. HarperCollins, 1998.

Simplistic, spare book with a hilarious premise! Kids always appreciate a great story. It engages more imaginative play than actual mixing or cooking; however, it emphasizes the logical progression of the making.

Ages: 3, 4, 5

Tags: [imagination](#), [making](#)

Stevenson, Robert Louis. Block City. Dutton, 1988.

A child creates a world of his own with mountains and sea, a city and ships, all from toy blocks.

Ages: 3, 4, 5, 6, 7

Tags: [imagination](#), [making](#), [repurpose](#)

Stinson, Kathy. Red Is Best. Annick Press, 1982.

Simple line drawings illustrate a sweet story of a toddler who prefers red anything to everything else. Best for the youngest of makers who may identify with the character's particular preferences. Not necessarily demonstrative of a maker inclination, but good as an early lesson in the universality of childhood.

Ages: 1, 2, 3

Tags: [color](#)

Stone, Phoebe. When the Wind Bears Go Dancing. Little, Brown Books for Young Readers, 1997.

Rhyming, musical, sweet book about the magic of stormy windy nights and dancing bears.

Ages: 4, 5, 6

Tags: [wind](#), [imagination](#)

Strasser, Susanne. So Light, So Heavy. Charlesbridge, 2018.

With an elephant on one side of the teeter-totter, it takes a lot of animals on the other side—and one child—before the teeter-totter will start to move up and down.

Ages: 4, 5, 6, 7, 8

Tags: [collaboration](#), [problem-solving](#), [simple machines](#), [weight](#)

Sturges, Philemon. Bridges Are to Cross. G.P. Putnam's Sons, 1998.

Discusses different bridges, from train bridges to fortified castle bridges, and provides an example of each.

Ages: 4, 5, 6, 7, 8

Tags: [engineering](#), [building](#)

Sutton, Sally. Construction. Candlewick Press, 2014.

Simplistic rhythmic text, employing lots of onomatopoeia, follows the noisy construction of a library building. The last page provides some brief machine facts.

Ages: 3, 4, 5

Tags: [construction](#), [rhyme](#)

Swinburne, Stephen R. Guess Whose Shadow? Boyds Mills Press, 1999.

Photographic explanation of shadows with simple text. The last half of the book displays shadows that children can play a guessing game with. "Shadows are a sunny day, friend."

Ages: 3, 4, 5

Tags: [shadow](#)

Swinburne, Stephen R. Lots and Lots of Zebra Stripes. Boyds Mill Press, 1998.

Excellent simple photographs illustrating patterns in nature. Simple text which includes suggestions for finding patterns in foods, flowers, and in the surrounding environment.

Ages: 3, 4, 5

Tags: [color](#), [explore](#)

Swinburne, Stephen R. What Color is Nature? Boyds Mills Press, 2002.

Excellent simple photographs illustrating colors in nature. Sparse text.

Ages: 3, 4, 5

Tags: [color](#)

Taback, Simms. This Is the House That Jack Built. G.P. Putnam's Sons, 2002.

A cumulative nursery rhyme about the chain of events started when Jack built a house.

Ages 5, 6, 7, 8

Tags: [group reading](#), [building](#), [cause and effect](#)

Taback, Simms. This is the House That Jack Built. Putnam's Sons, 2002.

An exuberant, illustrated retelling of the classic nursery rhyme that will engage storytime participants and merit repeated individual examination.

Ages: 3, 4, 5, 6

Tags: [rhyme](#), [storytime](#)

Tafari, Nancy. The Ball Bounced. Greenwillow Books, 1989.

A ball bounces and sets off chain reactions: the cat jumps, the water splashes, the dog runs, and so on, until the ball stops and a toddler laughs. The action-packed text moves as quickly as a bouncing ball, and the suspenseful moments instantaneously attract the reader's attention. The concept of cause-and-effect is flawlessly laid out in this very useful book.

Ages: 2, 3

Tags: [motion](#), [cause and effect](#)

Tamaki, Jillian. They Say Blue. New York: Abrams Books for Young Readers, 2018.

This beautifully illustrated book expresses all the wonderment and questions of color in a child's world. It would help assist a child to *think* about colors in nature.

Ages: 3, 4, 5, 6

Tags: [color](#), [experiment](#)

Tao, Amy. Let's Roll. Cricket Media, 2018.

Short descriptive text explains the concepts of wheels and axles and how and why they work, along with an activity experimenting with axles using square, round, and triangular shapes.

Ages: 3, 4, 5, 6

Tags: [simple machines](#), [experiment](#)

Tao, Amy. Meet the Machines. Cricket Media, 2017.

A very kid-friendly information book that explains simple machines clearly and in a very entertaining way. Includes a discussion of ramps, pulleys, wedges, screws, axles, and wheels.

Ages: 4, 5, 6

Tags: [simple machines](#), [problem-solving](#), [tools](#)

Thompson, Lauren. The Apple Pie that Papa Baked. Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, 2007.

Vintage appeal to the illustrations, retake on old folk rhyme illustrating a young girl watching her father bake a pie—an excellent illustration of the circle of making in life.

Ages: 5, 6

Tags: [making](#), [cooperation](#)

Thong, Roseanne. Red Is a Dragon. Chronicle Books, 2008

A rhyming text illustrating the colors of Chinese culture and family life. Good for introducing a multicultural element to a discussion of colors. Includes a final glossary explaining unfamiliar foods and cultural items.

Ages: 4, 5, 6

Tags: [color](#), [diversity](#), [rhyming](#)

Tillworth, Mary. Best Doghouse Ever! Random House, 2013.

Beginning reader with super simplistic text and plot for the earliest of readers.

Ages: 3, 4, 5, 6

Tags: [building](#)

Trumbauer, Lisa. All About Sound. Children's Press, 2013.

A Rookie Read-About Science book that includes photographs of children making sounds. Discusses vibrations and what happens in our ear and brain when a sound is heard. Informative, as are most Rookie Readers.

Ages: 5, 6, 7, 8

Tags: [sound](#), [cause and effect](#)

Tullet, Herve. Mix It Up. Chronicle Books, 2014.

Color mixing book, a simple idea done well. Includes concepts of tinting and shading colors. To understand the concept, a child needs an adult to share the book with them.

Ages: 3, 4, 5

Tags: [color](#), [experiment](#)

Tullet, Herve. Mix It Up. Chronicle Books, 2014.

Unique interactive book demonstrates color mixing, shading, and tinting. Probably best shared with one child or a small group.

Ages: 3, 4, 5, 6

Tags: [color](#), [light](#), [making](#)

Tullet, Herve. Press Here. Chronicle Books, 2011.

Primary color dots are featured on each page with informational text. This is an excellent book to share, illustrating how to follow precise directions to achieve an expected result.

Ages: 3, 4, 5

Tags: [color](#), [experiment](#), [cause and effect](#)

Van Dusen, Chris. If I Built a Car. Dutton Children's Books, 2005.

Part of the If I Built series. The lyrical text tells the story of a little boy's boundless imagination as he designs his perfect car. It can fly, submerge in water, has a robot driver, a snack bar, and a swimming pool! The engaging vintage-style illustrations describe the futuristic thinking of the boy and reference the 1960s.

Ages: 5 and up

Tags: [imagination](#), [invention](#)

Van Dusen, Chris. If I Built a Car. Dutton Children's Books, 2005.

Witty, rhyming, and fun, with excellent illustrations. Explores the fantasy of creation and invention. Definite kid appeal.

Ages: 4, 5, 6

Tags: [creativity](#), [invention](#), [imagination](#)

VanVoorst, Jenny Fretland. Wind. Bullfrog Books, 2017.

An extremely simplistic picture book for the very youngest. Minimal text, bright photographs.

Ages: 2, 3, 4

Tags: [wind](#)

Waldman, Neil. The Snowflake: A Water Cycle Story. Millbrook Press, 2003.

Traces the journey of a single drop of water throughout the year, with each month receiving its own spread. The water begins as a snowflake that melts into a droplet, flows into the ground, bubbles up in a spring, flows into a farm's irrigation system, evaporates into the morning fog, becomes part of a cloud, rains down, enters a plumbing system, washes a little girl's face, flows out to the ocean, gets swept onto the shore, and evaporates into the sky to become a snowflake once more.

Ages: 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9

Tags: [water](#), [cause and effect](#)

Walsh, Ellen Stoll. Balancing Act. Beach Lane Books, 2010.

Two mice have fun playing on a teeter-totter. As more and larger friends join them, it becomes increasingly challenging to stay balanced.

Ages: 4, 5, 6, 7, 8

Tags: [collaboration](#), [weight](#), [problem-solving](#)

Walsh, Ellen Stoll. Mouse Paint. Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, 1989.

The classic ultimate color mixing book! Simple storyline and colorful illustrations serve as a springboard for many extension activities and experiments. A must!

Ages: 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

Tags: [color](#), [experiment](#), [cause and effect](#)

Waring, Geoff. Oscar and the Bat: A Book About Sound. Candlewick Press, 2008.

Part of the Oscar series that teaches basic science to young children, this book features Oscar the kitten learning about sound from a bat, particularly the way different animals make sounds. Informative, at a manageable level for young children, and the clean and cute graphic art is appealing for picture book lovers. Oscar is so adorable with his big round eyes!

Ages: 3, 4, 5, 6

Tags: [sound](#)

Waring, Geoff. Oscar and the Cricket: A Book About Moving and Rolling. Candlewick Press, 2008.

An excellent little storybook about force, motion, rolling, and stopping using two animal characters who discover the properties of these reactions. Includes an information page that explains the properties of each motion in easy-to-comprehend language and colorful pictures. One of the better books to include in Little Makers, it has a simple story and instructional text.

Ages: 3, 4, 5

Tags: [motion](#), [gravity](#), [group reading](#), [cause and effect](#)

Waring, Geoff. Oscar and the Moth: A Book About Light and Dark. Candlewick Press, 2007.

Excellent, informative, entertaining book about light and darkness. Lots of information is included in a simple story form with charming illustrations. Provides additional information about creatures that create their own light. At the end of the book, there's a review section along with the index. Highly recommended.

Ages: 4, 5, 6

Tags: [light](#)

Wells, Robert E. How Do You Lift a Lion? Albert Whitman, 1996.

Provides a simple and brief yet entertaining introduction to the use of levers, pulleys, and wheels to move heavy objects—in this case, wild animals. Includes a glossary.

Ages: 3, 4, 5, 6

Tags: [simple machines](#), [weight](#), [gravity](#)

Welsbacher, Anne. Inclined Planes. Capstone Press, 2001.

Good informative book with bright illustrative pictorial examples to describe inclined planes as simple machines that make lifting, pushing, moving, and building easier. Includes a sample experiment, glossary, and internet site listing at the end.

Ages: 5+

Tags: [motion](#), [simple machines](#), [experiments](#)

Westing, Jemma. Out of the Box: 25 Cardboard Engineering Projects for Makers. Dorling Kindersley, 2017.

Recycle household cardboard into incredible art projects that you can wear, share, and play with. Learn how to build and decorate more than 25 amazing creations, including costumes and castles, gifts and games, puppets and pirate ships.

Ages: 7, 8, 9, 10

Tags:

Weston, Tamson. Hey, Pancakes! Harcourt, 2003.

This pancake frenzy of mixing and baking together as a family illustrates the messy joy of creation and sharing.

Ages: 3, 4, 5, 6

Tags: [making](#), [cooperation](#)

White, Dianne. Who Eats Orange. Beach Lane Books, 2018.

Simple large illustrations of worldwide animals and the color of the foods they eat. Includes unusual animals and foods and an explanation of different habitats and the animals that inhabit them in the back of the book.

Ages: 3, 4, 5, 6

Tags: [color](#), [diversity](#)

Whiting, Sue. The Firefighters. Candlewick Press, 2008.

Three kids dress up as firefighters, build their own fire truck from cardboard, and play at extinguishing fires on the playground. It gets really exciting when a real fire truck arrives with real firefighters on board.

Ages: 3, 4, 5, 6, 7

Tags: [building](#), [imagination](#), [repurpose](#)

Wilhelm, Hans. Hello, Sun! Carolrhoda Books, 2004.

A sweet story of a hedgehog who wants to build a tall house so he can view the sun. He accomplishes this with the help of friends despite the doubts of a wily fox. Not too much emphasis on shadows, but displays cooperative work.

Ages: 2, 3, 4

Tags: [building](#), [house](#), [collaboration](#), [light](#)

Willems, Mo. Listen to my Trumpet. Hyperion Books for Children, 2012.

A popular beginning reader series, Piggie attempts to play his new trumpet to the chagrin of his long-suffering friend Elephant, who although convinced this is *not* music, can't figure out exactly what these sounds are supposed to be.

Ages: 3, 4, 5, 6

Tags: [sound](#), [music](#), [perseverance](#)

Willems, Mo. Watch Me Throw the Ball! Hyperion Books for Children, 2009.

Very entertaining Elephant and Piggie book. Demonstrates the playful qualities of Little Makers and illustrates the joy young children find in playing with balls, as opposed to a strictly offering informational text.

Ages: 2, 3, 4, 5

Tags: [collaboration](#), [group reading](#)

Williams, Karen, Lynn. Galimoto. Lothrop, Lee & Shepard Books, 1990.

A must-read and an excellent book for sharing! The story is engaging and possibly inspires an imitative experience for children exposed to it. Also a good glimpse into the lives of children from another part of the world.

Ages: 4, 5, 6

Tags: [maker mindset](#), [making](#), [diversity](#), [perseverance](#)

Wilson, April. April Wilson's Magpie Magic: A Tale of Colorful Mischief. Dial Books for Young Readers, 1999.

Wordless picture book demonstrating a black pencil sketch that comes to life when illustrated with colored pencils. Helpful in exploring art with various tools.

Ages: 4, 5, 6

Tags: [color](#), [wordless](#), [imagination](#)

Wilson, Karma. Bear Sees Colors. Margaret K. McElderry Books, 2014.

Engaging illustrations of woodland creatures pointing out primary and secondary colors in their environments. Rhyming text.

Ages: 2, 3, 4

Tags: [color](#), [rhyming](#)

Wilson, Karma. Bear Snores. Margaret K. McElderry Books, 2002.

Forest animals take shelter in Bear's den, and despite their noises—such as a crackling fire, popping corn, and the sounds of eating—Bear doesn't wake for a while. Ultimately he awakens, and they rejuvenate the party to include (and feed) him.

Ages: 2, 3, 4, 5

Tags: [sound](#), [group reading](#)

Yolen, Jane. Owl Moon. Philomel Books, 1987.

In this classic, a father takes his daughter owling late on a snowy night. The author's rich description of the sights and sounds (to include owl calls) sets the mood and tone of the story, along with the illustrations depicting the cold expanse of the farm and woods.

Ages: 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9

Tags: [sound](#), [group reading](#)

Yolen, Jane & Chris Sheban. What to Do with a Box. Creative Editions, 2016. A simple box can be a child's most imaginative plaything. This book illustrates its myriad and magical uses.

Ages: 4, 5, 6, 7, 8

Tags: [imagination](#), [making](#)

Yonezu, Yusuke. Moving Blocks. Michael Neugebauer Publishing, Ltd., 2015.

Describes things that can be made from toy blocks, including a car, bus, and plane.

Ages: 1, 2, 3

Tags: [imagination](#), [making](#)

Young, Jessica. My Blue Is Happy. Candlewick Press, 2013.

Demonstrates the emotional and individualistic meaning and appeal of colors.

Ages: 3, 4, 5

Tags: [color](#)

Zelver, Patricia. The Wonderful Towers of Watts. Tambourine Books, 1994.

Describes how an Italian immigrant in the Watts neighborhood of Los Angeles built three unusual towers in his backyard made of found objects: broken tiles, bottles, mirrors, shells, etc.

Ages: 5+

Tags: [making](#), [repurpose](#), [creativity](#)

Zuppardi, Sam. The Nowhere Box. Candlewick Press, 2013.

With the help of a cardboard box to Nowhere, George soon manages to escape his two little brothers. But is Nowhere all it's cracked up to be?

Ages: 4, 5, 6, 7, 8

Tags: [cooperation](#), [imagination](#), [making](#)