



Transitioning to  
**KINDERGARTEN**  
**BOOKLIST**



*A Union of Professionals*





Randi Weingarten  
PRESIDENT

Lorretta Johnson  
SECRETARY-TREASURER

Mary Cathryn Ricker  
EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT

#### OUR MISSION

The **American Federation of Teachers** is a union of professionals that champions fairness; democracy; economic opportunity; and high-quality public education, healthcare and public services for our students, their families and our communities. We are committed to advancing these principles through community engagement, organizing, collective bargaining and political activism, and especially through the work our members do.

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## Transitioning to KINDERGARTEN BOOKLIST

It's important to find books that jump-start a preschooler's passion for reading. Members of the American Federation of Teachers Early Childhood Education Cadre, made up of early educators from all over the country, have recommended some of their favorite books. Each booklist pairs a set of learning activities from the "Transitioning to Kindergarten" toolkit with books that explore similar ideas and skills. For the complete "Transitioning to Kindergarten" toolkit, with all of its fun activities, visit <http://go.aft.org/t2k>.

The AFT has partnered with First Book ([www.firstbook.org](http://www.firstbook.org)), a nonprofit organization that provides new books for programs and schools serving children in need, to bring you these book recommendations, most of which are available through First Book. Learn more about the AFT/First Book partnership and how to register for First Book at <http://www.firstbook.org/reclaim-the-promise-first-book-and-aft>.





### LEARNING ABOUT PRINT ACTIVITIES “BEGINNING”

- Making a Menu
- My Favorite Book
- My Name Has Letters
- The Reading Puppet

### TEACHER-RECOMMENDED BOOKS



*To Market, To Market* by Anne Miranda; illustrated by Janet Stevens. An inventive twist on a classic rhyme tells what happens after a shopper goes to the market.



*Not a Box* by Antoinette Portis. Join one small rabbit on an imaginative journey where a simple cardboard box is the only thing needed for adventure.



*Chicka Chicka Boom Boom* by Bill Martin Jr. and John Archambault; illustrated by Lois Ehlert. Explore the alphabet with familiar words and beautiful drawings.



*The Very Hungry Caterpillar* by Eric Carle. Follow a caterpillar as it grows, in this new bilingual edition of a children's classic. 📖

📖 This title is available through the First Book Marketplace, for free or at low cost to schools and programs serving children in need. Register now at [firstbook.org](https://firstbook.org).

## LEARNING ABOUT PRINT ACTIVITIES “MAKING PROGRESS”

- Find a Word
- Fishing for Letters
- Name Memory
- Word Puzzles

## TEACHER-RECOMMENDED BOOKS



*Barnyard Banter* by Denise Fleming. Explore the animals of the barnyard while learning their names and the sounds they make. 📖



*The Rainbow Fish* by Marcus Pfister. Learn about the value of being an individual as a rainbow fish travels to find others who look like him and instead finds that he's perfect just how he is. 📖



*Yoko Writes Her Name* by Rosemary Wells. Join Yoko as she learns to write her name in English, and teaches her classmates to write their names in Japanese. 📖



*Martha Speaks* by Susan Meddaugh. When Helen feeds alphabet soup to her dog, Martha, the dog begins to speak. Join these two as they teach and learn letters and words. 📖



*Alphabet Tree* by Leo Lionni. When a strong wind blows the letters of the alphabet out of their tree, they must work together to form words and sentences to get back home. 📖



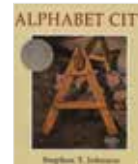
*Shiver Me Letters: A Pirate ABC* by June Sobel. The crew of a pirate ship works together to capture every letter of the alphabet—lest they be forced to walk the plank.



*Knuffle Bunny Free* by Mo Willems. See what happens when two bunnies go to the laundromat. 📖



*I Spy! School Days* by Jean Marzollo. Explore a school and identify different items you would find in the classroom and around the school grounds.



*Alphabet City* by Stephen T. Johnson. View the city in a new light using this picture book that shows an urban landscape in the form of the letters of the alphabet.



*Gathering the Sun: An Alphabet in Spanish and English* by Alma Flor Ada; illustrated by Simon Silva. Explore the lives of farmers in this bilingual alphabet book.



*I Will Never Not Ever Eat a Tomato* by Lauren Child. Join Charlie as he coaxes Lola, a picky eater, into trying different foods. 📖



*Mouse Was Mad* by Linda Urban. Join a mouse as he discovers all the different ways the other animals express their anger and decides the best way for him to express his own anger. 📖

## LEARNING ABOUT PRINT ACTIVITIES “READY TO READ”

- Letter Memory
- My Word Box
- Pick a Letter
- Word Jump

## TEACHER-RECOMMENDED BOOKS



*Creature ABC* by Andrew Zuckerman. Learn the alphabet using beautiful animal wildlife photography.




*The Alphabet Book* by P.D. Eastman. Learn the alphabet using this brilliant alphabet book that has everything from ants to zebras.



*Chicka Chicka Boom Boom* by Bill Martin Jr. and John Archambault. Enjoy an alphabet chant that relates what happens when the whole alphabet tries to climb a coconut tree.



*Dr. Seuss's ABC: An Amazing Alphabet Book!* by Dr. Seuss. With Dr. Seuss as your guide, learning the alphabet is as easy as A, B, C.

 This title is available through the First Book Marketplace, for free or at low cost to schools and programs serving children in need. Register now at [firstbook.org](http://firstbook.org).



*Brown Bear, Brown Bear What Do You See?* by Bill Martin Jr. and Eric Carle. Learn colors, letters, and animals as you explore the forest with Brown Bear and his friends.



*Froggy Gets Dressed* by Jonathan London. Join Froggy as he suits up—begrudgingly—for a winter frolic in the snow.



*Goodnight Moon* by Margaret Wise Brown. Identify all the familiar items inside a bunny's bedroom as he bids each of them goodnight.



*Lunch* by Denise Fleming. It's lunchtime for a mouse and he can't stop eating! Read and spot all of the great foods he has for lunch.



*I Went Walking* by Sue Williams; illustrated by Julie Vivas. Go for a walk and find interesting animals and colors described with rhymes.



*Moo, Baa, La La La!* by Sandra Boynton. Introduce children to animal noises in this zany re-illustration of a classic.



*The Napping House* by Audrey Wood; illustrated by Don Wood. Delightful cumulative rhyme shows readers the consequences of piling too many sleepy people and animals in a cozy bed.



*Go, Dog. Go!* by P.D. Eastman. Using single-syllable words in rhythmic repetition, and introducing colors and prepositions, this Dr. Seuss-styled classic has been an early favorite of children for years.



*Very Hungry Caterpillar* by Eric Carle. Follow the caterpillar as he eats his way through the book, teaching colors and numbers along the way. 📖



*Bee-bim Bop!* by Linda Sue Park. A hungry child tells of helping her mother make bee-bim bop, a traditional Korean meal. 📖



*Cassie's Word Quilt* by Faith Ringgold. Join Cassie as she takes us on a tour of her home, neighborhood and school, and introduces dozens of new words. 📖

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### WRITING ACTIVITIES "BEGINNING"

- Draw to the Music
- Draw Your Day
- I Can Write Letters!
- Tell Me About Your Picture
- Walk on a Letter

### TEACHER-RECOMMENDED BOOKS



*Alphabet Tree* by Leo Lionni. When a strong wind blows the letters of the alphabet out of their tree, they must work together to form words and sentences to get back home. 📖



*The Feel Good Book* by Todd Parr. Learn about all the different emotions people can experience in this funny children's classic.



*Eating the Alphabet* by Lois Ehlert. An alphabetical tour of fruits and vegetables. 📖



*Reading Makes You Feel Good* by Todd Parr. Learn that reading isn't something that just happens at school or at home—it can happen anywhere! 📖



*Cleo's Alphabet Book* by Caroline Mockford. This interactive alphabet book aims to help children master the alphabet while following Cleo's adventures as the curious cat explores her world. 📖

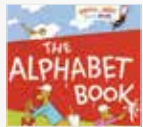
### WRITING ACTIVITIES "MAKING PROGRESS"

- Build Our Name
- Clay Letters
- Copy a Card
- Sequence Story
- Trace Your Name

### TEACHER-RECOMMENDED BOOKS



*Yoko Writes Her Name* by Rosemary Wells. Join Yoko as she learns to write her name in English, and teaches her classmates to write their names in Japanese. 📖



*The Alphabet Book* by P.D. Eastman. Learn the alphabet using this brilliant alphabet book that has everything from ants to zebras.



*Bear in a Square* by Stella Blackstone. Share the adventures of a big, friendly bear as he roams through all sorts of crazy settings, discovering different shapes along his way. 📖



*Mouse Shapes* by Ellen Stoll Walsh. What can you make with one oval, two circles and eight triangles? Just ask three clever mice!

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*If You Give a Mouse a Cookie* by Laura Joffe Numeroff. Relating the requests a mouse is likely to make after you give him a cookie takes the reader through a young child's day. 📖



*The Very Hungry Caterpillar* by Eric Carle. Follow the caterpillar as he eats his way through the book, teaching colors and numbers along the way. 📖



*Airport* by Byron Barton. Learn everything that happens to travelers from when they arrive at the airport until take off! 📖



### WRITING ACTIVITIES "READY TO READ"

- Guess What's Inside
- Send a Message

### TEACHER-RECOMMENDED BOOKS



*Press Here* by Herve Tullet. Press the yellow dot on the cover of this book and embark on a magical journey. 📖



*Please Write Back!* by Jennifer Morris. Alfie, an adorable alligator, writes a letter to Grandma all by himself.



*With Love, Little Red Hen* by Alma Flor Ada; illustrated by Leslie Tryon. Through a series of letters, learn how Goldilocks, Peter Rabbit and Hetty Hen help Little Red Hen take care of her corn crop.

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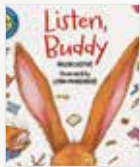




### TALKING AND LISTENING ACTIVITIES “BEGINNING”

- Be an Expert Listener
- Find the Rhymes
- How Many Words?
- Match That Sound

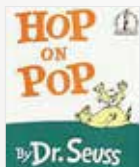
### TEACHER-RECOMMENDED BOOKS



*Listen, Buddy* by Helen Lester. Join Buddy the Bunny as he identifies physical animal characteristics and learns to use his best assets—his large ears—to listen to those around him.



*Listening Time* by Elizabeth Verdick. Readers discover that it's important to open their eyes and ears but to close their mouths so good listening can begin.



*Hop on Pop* by Dr. Seuss. Simple rhyming words, such as “pup” and “up,” are stacked one over the other so that readers learn to better identify rhymes. 📖



*Bugs!* by Rachel Yu. Follow along with these fun rhymes describing some funky bugs, accompanied with some colorful bug-filled illustrations.

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*If You Find a Monkey* by Jenny King. This funny rhyming book explores different animals as they play.



*Is Your Mama a Llama?* by Deborah Guirino; illustrated by Steven Kellogg. In this favorite, whimsical rhyming riddles help Lloyd the baby llama guess what kind of animal everyone's mama really is.



*Polar Bear, Polar Bear, What Do You Hear?* by Bill Martin Jr. Explore the zoo and its animals using rhyming words. 📖





### TALKING AND LISTENING ACTIVITIES "MAKING PROGRESS"

- Be a Word
- Find the Compound Words
- Jump for a Rhyme
- Mystery Sound
- Rhyme-Out

### TEACHER-RECOMMENDED BOOKS



*Wheels on the Bus* by Raffi and Sylvie Kantorovitz Wickstrom. As the rickety old bus collects its passengers, the reader may join in with the sounds of the bus and motions of the driver and passengers. 📖



*Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs* by Judi Barrett. Explore the town of Chewandswallow where it rains food three times a day, and grapple with what happens when the weather goes out of whack.



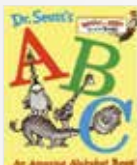
*A Child's Book of Poems* by Gyo Fujikawa. A compilation of 200 poems for children by William Blake, Kate Greenaway and Emily Dickinson. 📖



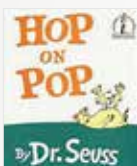
*A Is for Musk Ox* by Erin Cabatingan. Enjoy a romp through the alphabet with Musk Ox claiming every letter for himself, and Zebra doing his best to keep him under control. 📖



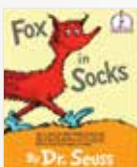
*A Is for Alligator* by Maurice Sendak. Join the alligators as they engage in rambunctious adventures through the alphabet.



*Dr. Seuss's ABC: An Amazing Alphabet Book!* by Dr. Seuss. With Dr. Seuss as your guide, learning the alphabet is as easy as A, B, C. 📖



*Hop on Pop* by Dr. Seuss. Simple rhyming words, such as “pup” and “up,” are stacked one over the other so that readers learn to better identify rhymes.



*Fox in Socks* by Dr. Seuss. A great beginner reading book with all of the wacky Dr. Seuss rhymes we've come to love. 📖

## TALKING AND LISTENING ACTIVITIES “READY TO READ”

- First Sound Sort
- Stretched-Out Story
- What Word Is Left?

## TEACHER-RECOMMENDED BOOKS



*Polar Bear, Polar Bear, What Do You Hear?* by Bill Martin, Jr. Explore zoo sounds (and the animals that make them) with rhyming words. 📖



*Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You See?* by Bill Martin Jr. Learn colors, letters and animals as you discover the forest with Brown Bear and his friends. 📖



*Llama Llama Red Pajama* by Anna Dewdney. In this infectious rhyming read-aloud, Baby Llama turns bedtime into an all-out llama drama. 📖



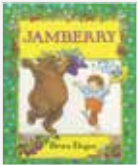
*Frog and Toad* stories by Arnold Lobel. Like an innocent Laurel and Hardy, these two amphibians show the true meaning of friendship. 📖

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*The Little Bear Stories* by Martin Waddell. All of the Big and Little Bear stories in one, great for beginning readers!



*Jamberry* by Bruce Degen. They're off ... a boy and an endearing, rhyme-spouting bear, who squires him through a fantastic world of berries. 📖



*Go, Dog. Go!* by P.D. Eastman. Using single-syllable words in rhythmic repetition, and introducing colors and prepositions, this Dr. Seuss-styled classic has been an early favorite of children for years.



*Once There Was a Bull (Frog)* by Rick Walton. This is an endearing story of a frog who lost his hop.



*Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs* by Judi Barrett. Explore the town of Chewandswallow where it rains food three times a day, but what happens when the weather goes out of whack?



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Washington, DC 20001  
202-879-4400  
[www.aft.org](http://www.aft.org)



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