

# READING LIST FOR EARLY YEARS HIGH LEARNING POTENTIAL CHILDREN

## Summary

This advice sheet comprises a list of some materials suitable for high learning potential Early Years advanced reader. It includes a variety of different kinds of reading material, as well as general advice on supporting early readers with high learning potential.

## Introduction

We are often asked for ideas of reading material for competent Early Years readers. This is difficult to advise on because all children are at different stages and have varying likes and dislikes. However, we have put together this list which can be used as a general guide. However, in order for children to develop as readers, it is a good idea for them to broaden their horizons by varying the subject, format and media.

## Supporting a High Learning Potential Early Years Reader

High learning potential children's emotional development is sometimes out of line with their reading ability and anyone supporting them needs to consider the appropriateness of the subject of the book, along with the level of difficulty. It is important that high learning potential children are given support in understanding what they are reading. This can be done through discussing characters' feelings, asking what they think will happen next, discussing what they would do in a certain situation or looking up unknown words in a dictionary.

## Non-Fiction

- *Wonderwise* series by Mick Manning and Brita Granstrom – a non-fiction series, related to a young child's world, with lovely artwork. Titles include 'What's Under My Bed?', 'What's Up?' and 'Is A Blue Whale The Biggest Thing There Is?'
- *Animal Families* by Dorling Kindersley, a book showing how young animals do just what children do.
- *Earth Matters* edited by David Rothschild, CEO of Adventure Ecology, is part of Dorling Kindersley's 'Made with Care' series and informs readers about our incredible planet and how to look after it.
- *DK First Reference* series of seven books with titles such as *Nature Encyclopedia*, *Dinosaur Encyclopedia* and *Science Encyclopedia*. Great visual appeal for younger readers.
- *Usborne See Inside* series, including *Ancient Rome*, *Your Body* and *Space* has added appeal as there are lots of flaps to explore.
- *A Life Like Mine* and *Children Just Like Me*, published by Dorling Kindersley in association with UNICEF, show how children around the world live.
- *I Wonder Why* series published by Kingfisher is full of information presented in a young child friendly format.

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## Fiction

- *The Hairy Maclary* books written by Lynley Dodd have a wonderful rhyming text and give a sense of right and wrong to the reader.
- *Billy's Bucket* by Kes Grey – Billy wants only one thing for his birthday: a bucket. Inside it, he can see all kinds of magnificent sea creatures. But Mum and Dad are sceptical and, when Dad unwittingly uses the bucket to clean his car, he's in for a big surprise!
- *The Gaskitts* series by Allan Ahlberg – a great format with chapters and pictures:
  - *The Man Who Wore All His Clothes*
  - *The Woman Who Won Things*
  - *The Cat Who Got Carried Away*
  - *The Children Who Smelled A Rat*
- *The Green Ship* by Quentin Blake gives a positive message about the value of play for developing the imagination and a vehicle for learning.
- *Meet Charlie* books by Hilary McKay – thinner novel-style books about a boy who gets into Trouble.
- *The Rumblewick Diaries* collection – lively adventures about a witch's cat.
- Anything by Dr Zeuss is suitable for this age group and young children will love the sounds of the words and tongue-twisters.
- *Clarice Bean* books by Lauren Child are available as picture books or paperbacks, depending on the child's preference. The language and humour is unusual and the format is captivating. The same author has some other complicated picture books, such as *That Pesky Rat* and *Beware of the Storybook Wolves*.
- *Hubert Horatio Bartle Bobton-Trent* also by Lauren Child is a complex picture book about a child-genius.
- *The Gentle Giant* by Michael Morpurgo is a picture book format with complex language.
- *It Was a Dark and Stormy Night* by Janet Ahlberg is another picture book with an interesting story.
- *The Tall Story*, *Rent a Friend* and *The Thing in the Sink* by Frieda Hughes are a series of books with chapters and colourful illustrations.
- *The Legend of Spud Murphy*, *The Legend of Captain Crow's Teeth* and *The Legend of the Worst Boy in the World* by Eoin Colfer.
- *The Giraffe and the Pelly and Me* and *The Enormous Crocodile* by Roald Dahl are both suitable for younger readers.
- Barefoot Books produces a variety of storybooks, many with stories from different cultures.

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## Poetry

- *Who's Been Sleeping in My Porridge?: A Book of Wacky Poems and Pictures* by Colin McNaughton.
- *Noisy Poems* by Debi Gliori.
- *The Puffin Book of Utterly Brilliant Poetry* by Brian Patten.
- *The Silly Slimy Smelly Hairy Book* by Babette Cole.

## Further Information

PA107 Reading List for Key Stage 1 High Learning Potential Children	This advice sheet comprises a list of some materials suitable for confident Key Stage 1 readers who are ready to move on. The materials are listed in ascending order of difficulty.
PA108 Reading List for Key Stage 2 High Learning Potential Children	This advice sheet offers a list of some materials suitable for Key Stage 2 readers who are significantly advanced. Materials are listed according to maturity of theme and/or language.
PA109 Comic Books Suitable for Younger Readers	Early readers often progress through different types of books quickly, and they appreciate the mixture of visual information and text that comic books offer. However, popular comic books sometimes deal with mature subjects so can be unsuitable for younger readers. This advice sheet contains a list of comic books that are suitable for younger readers.
PA401 Supporting High Learning Potential in English (Primary)	This advice sheet is aimed at parents and carers. It covers how to recognise high learning potential in English at the Primary level, as well as how parents and carers can support a child with high learning potential and/or a strong interest in this. There are also links to further resources in this subject area.
<a href="http://www.arbookfind.co.uk/default.aspx">http://www.arbookfind.co.uk/default.aspx</a>	<b>Accelerated Reader Book Finder</b> recommends books according to author, title, subject and keywords.
<a href="http://schoolreadinglist.co.uk/">http://schoolreadinglist.co.uk/</a>	<b>The School Reading List</b> suggests reading books for primary and secondary aged children in the UK.
<a href="http://www.thebookbag.co.uk/reviews/index.php/Category:For_Sharing">http://www.thebookbag.co.uk/reviews/index.php/Category:For_Sharing</a>	<b>Bookbag</b> includes reviews and many top ten lists. Books are not sorted by age, rather by subject and type of book.
<i>Some of My Best Friends Are Books: Guiding Gifted Readers from Preschool to High School</i> by Judith Wynn Halsted	Books can be wonderful bridges for communications on feelings, values and decision-making. The extensive indexing makes it easy to select appropriate books that are interesting to a particular child.

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