



County of Los Angeles
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RESOURCES

Books and Music for Young Children

Building children's language and literacy skills requires access to a wide selection of books appropriate to the children's ages, languages, and special needs. Environments rich in music genres encourage children's movement, relaxation, and desire to create. The following is a list of recommended resources intended to begin helping early educators select books and music that are developmentally appropriate to children of all ages, expose them to a variety of topics and genres, and are reflective of different cultures and abilities.

Américas Book Award for Children's and Young Adult Literature: Sponsored by the national Consortium of Latin American Studies Programs (CLASP), given in recognition of U.S. works of fiction, poetry, folklore, or selected non-fiction (from picture books to works for young adults) published in the previous year in English or Spanish that authentically and engagingly portray Latin America, the Caribbean, or Latinos in the United States. For more information, including a list of recent and past winners, visit www.uwm.edu/Dept/CLACS/outreach/americas.html.

Association for Library Service to Children (ALSC): A division of the American Library Association (ALA), a network of more than 4,200 children's and youth librarians, children's literature experts, publishers, education and library school faculty members, and other adults committed to improving and ensuring the future of the nation through exemplary library service to children, their families, and others who work with children. Visit the ALSC at www.ala.org/alsc for links to literary award lists and children's notable lists as follows:

- **Children's Notable Lists:** Each year the Association for Library Service to Children (ALSC) identifies the best of the best in children's books, recordings, videos, and computer software.
- **Coretta Scott King Award:** Given to African American authors and illustrators for outstanding inspirational and educational contributions that promote understanding and appreciation of the culture of all peoples and their contribution to the realization of the American dream.
- **John Steptoe Award for New Talent:** Established to affirm new talent and to offer visibility to excellence in writing and/or illustration which otherwise might be formally unacknowledged within a given year within the structure of the two awards given annually by the Coretta Scott King Task Force.

- ***John Newberry Medal and Honor Books:*** Awarded annually by the ALA for the most distinguished American children's book published the previous year.
- ***Pura Belpré Award:*** Presented to a Latino/Latina writer and illustrator whose work best portrays, affirms, and celebrates the Latino cultural experience in an outstanding work of literature for children and youth.
- ***Randolph Caldecott Medal Books:*** Awarded annually by the ALSC to the artist of the most distinguished American picture book for children.
- ***Theodor Seuss Geisel Award:*** Given annually to the author(s) and illustrator(s) of the most distinguished American book for beginning readers published in English in the United States during the preceding year. The winner(s), recognized for their literary and artistic achievements that demonstrate creativity and imagination to engage children in reading, receives a bronze medal.

Cooperative Children's Book Center (CCBC): A research library of the School of Education at the University of Wisconsin-Madison helps librarians, teachers, child care providers, and others navigate the abundance of choices to locate the best books possible to meet their needs. The CCBC Web site maintains direct links to lists of annual awards and distinctions at <http://www.education.wisc.edu/ccbc/books/detailListBooks.asp?idBookLists=42>.

Libraries: Most neighborhood libraries (city and county libraries) have a children's section often staffed by youth librarians or have librarians available who are willing to answer questions and offer suggestions for books appropriate to young children and on a variety of themes. Lists of recommended books by children's age groups are also usually available for free. In addition, many libraries host a variety of programs targeted to children from birth on up and welcome the opportunity to partner with and extend their services to child care and development programs. To locate your local library, visit the California Libraries Catalogue at www.calcat.org and click on the map of California to follow the links to a library near you or check in the Government section of your telephone book for "libraries".

- **County of Los Angeles Public Libraries:** The County libraries offer a variety of programs, services, and resources targeted to children and youth from birth on up and their families and the child care and development programs that serve them. Depending on the library, programs include Read & Play Together Storytime Kits, Family Place, Live Homework Help, and more. For information about library offerings and to locate your local county library, visit <http://www.colapublib.org>.

Independent Children's Booksellers: The following list of children's bookstores are notable for featuring a wide selection of books, music and language materials (puppets, picture games, etc.) as well as their knowledgeable staff available to help customers make selections appropriate to children's development and interests:

Children's Book World

10580½ West Pico Boulevard
Los Angeles, CA 90064
(310) 559-2665
www.childrensbookworld.com

Once Upon a Story

3740 East 4th Street
Long Beach CA, 90814
Phone: 562-433-6856
www.onceuponastorybooks.com

Hillside Pharmacy

Manhattan Beach, CA
Phone: 310-376-9456
hpbooknook@aol.com (Email)

Once Upon a Time

2207 Honolulu Avenue
Montrose, CA 91020
Phone: 818-248-9668
www.onceupona.com

The Learning and Reading Company

North Hills, CA
Phone: 818-895-8408
raeofun@earthlink.net (Email)

Storyopolis

12348 Ventura Blvd
Studio City, CA 91604
Phone: 818-509-5600
www.storyopolis.com

Mrs. Nelson's Book Fair Company

Pomona, CA
Phone: 909-865-8550
1030 Bonita Avenue
La Verne, CA 91750
909-599-4558
www.mrsnelsons.com

Vroman's Bookstore

695 East Colorado Boulevard
Pasadena, CA 91101
Phone: 626-449-5320
www.vromansbookstore.com

Weaving Our Stories: A Select Multicultural Booklist For Preschool Children:

This list of picture books representing various cultural experiences was compiled by Oralia Garza de Cortés for Los Angeles Universal Preschool. Among the cultures represented are African and African American, Asian and Asian American, Latino, and Native American. Resources for teachers, parents and other caregivers as well as recommended Web sites are also offered. For the list of books, visit www.txla.org/groups/dist10/docs/Multicultural%20Picture%20Books.doc.