Hey!
I’m Reading

A booklist prepared by the Children’s Librarians at the Ferguson Library
There are few things more amazing than watching a child decode the mystery of letters and words, and begin to read. But a child doesn't suddenly appear in kindergarten ready to read; the skills needed for learning to read develop from the time a child is born. And, because learning to read is a process, we have prepared this booklist to guide you and your new reader through the various levels of reading competency.

- Sharing picture books forms a valuable foundation for the new reader. We include a number of our favorite picture books in the “Predictable Books for Emergent Readers” section.

- Easy readers are expressly designed for children who are learning to read; books in the “Early Beginning Readers” section are perfect for the child who is just getting started.

- “Just a Little Bit Harder” includes beginning readers, often categorized as level two by publishers, with a little more difficulty in vocabulary and sentence structure.

- Once the beginning reader is comfortable with the books in the “Now You are Reading” section they are ready to graduate to the exciting world of chapter books.

The Ferguson Library has a large picture book collection, and a special section just for beginning readers. Once the child has mastered most beginning readers a transitional fiction section, “Especially for 2nd and 3rd graders,” is full of enticing chapter books. And don’t forget, our children’s librarians are always available to make individualized reading recommendations.
Predictable Books For Emergent Readers

The following picture books use repetitious language or story patterns that help children learn to read naturally as they join in on refrains or predict the action of the story. (All books are located in the EPIC section of the Children's Room unless otherwise noted.)

**Bark, George** by Jules Feiffer
A puppy named George has the most peculiar bark.

**Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You See?** by Bill Martin, Jr.
In this rhyming story, animals come in more colors than you can imagine.

**Carlo Likes Reading** by Jessica Spanyol
With the help of labels, Carlo the giraffe learns new words.

**The Cow Who Clucked** by Denise Fleming
A cow has misplaced her moo and must search the barnyard to find it.

**First The Egg** by Laura Vaccaro Seeger
Ordinary things are transformed right before your eyes through the use of creative die-cuts.

**Five Little Monkeys Jumping on the Bed** by Eileen Christelow
A family of silly monkeys brings this classic action rhyme to life.

**Good-night, Owl!** by Pat Hutchins
With all the other animals in the forest making noise, Owl finds it difficult to sleep during the day.

**Hoptoad** by Jane Yolen
A toad makes a perilous journey across a very wide road.

**I Went Walking** by Sue Williams
A simple walk turns into a parade of animals for a small child.

**If You’re Happy and You Know It** by Jane Cabrera
A group of animals express happiness through movement and song.

**Jazz Baby** by Lisa Wheeler
A baby creates his own jazzy music with his family.

**Jump, Frog, Jump!** by Robert Kalan
A spunky little frog escapes danger by doing what frogs do best.

**The Little School Bus** by Carol Roth
A little school bus starts its day with a frog in the driver's seat.

**Move Over, Rover!** by Karen Beaumont
A doghouse is supposed to be for a dog, until a sudden storm arrives.

**Not a Box** by Antoinette Portis
A good imagination and an ordinary box are all you need for a little excitement.

**Splash, Joshua, Splash!** by Malachy Doyle
Joshua makes a big splash whether he is swimming or walking the dog.

**A Splendid Friend, Indeed** by Suzanne Bloom
A polar bear who likes to read, write and think meets up with a chatty goose.

**Three Little Kittens** by Paul Galdone
Three careless kittens learn to care for their mittens in this classic nursery rhyme.

**We’re Going on a Picnic!** by Pat Hutchins
A trio of feathered friends sets off to find the perfect spot for a picnic.

**Where’s Pup?** by Dayle Ann Dodds
A tiny clown wanders the circus looking for his misplaced dog.
Early Beginning Readers

These books contain many sight words (familiar words that children recognize and read easily), short sentences, simple, fast moving plots, and illustrations that often give contextual clues to the story. The typeface is large and there is a lot of white space between lines and around the words. (Books are located in the E Beginning section unless otherwise noted.)

**Big Pig and Little Pig** by David McPhail
Two pigs enjoy doing the same activities, but in a slightly different way.

**Biscuit** by Alyssa Capucilli  [Series]
Biscuit the puppy knows how to prolong his bedtime.

**Come Here, Tiger** by Alex Moran
While looking for her cat, a little girl finds a variety of pets in her home.

**Crawl, Ladybug, Crawl!** by Dana Meachen Rau
Take a close up look at these amazing bugs.

**Go Away, Dog** by Joan Nodset
A boy agrees to play with a stray dog in exchange for being left alone.

**Go, Dog, Go!** by P.D. Eastman
These dogs have been on the go for more than forty years.

**Happy & Honey** by Laura Godwin  [Series]
A little kitten is determined to have some fun with a big sleepy dog.

**Here Comes Tabby Cat** by Phyllis Root
Four short stories about a curious orange cat.

**Hop on Pop** by Dr. Seuss
A silly classic that has appealed to beginning readers for over forty years.

**How Many Fish?** by Caron Lee Cohen
Six little fish encounter six little feet while swimming in the bay.

**Max Goes to School** by Adria Klein
Max is a busy kid, with lots of places to go and people to visit.

**Mittens** by Lola Schaefer
A kitten named Mittens is scared of his new home until his new owner helps him to adjust.

**Monkey Trouble** by David Martin
Four stories about a busy little monkey.

**Mud!** by Charnan Simon
Sometimes friends and mud can go together nicely.

**My Pony Jack at Riding Lessons** by Cari Meister
Lacy and her pony Jack get ready for their riding lesson.

**Oh, Cats!** by Nola Buck
A little girl befriends three frisky kittens.

**Pig Wig** by Yukiko Kido
Meet three useful word families.

**Pizza for Sam** by Mary Labatt
While his owners prepare for a party, a puppy named Sam makes a delicious discovery.

**Popcorn** by Alex Moran
What happens when a pink cat pops too much popcorn?

**Puppy Mudge Wants to Play** by Cynthia Rylant
When this puppy wants to play, nothing will stop him.

**Ruby’s Perfect Day** by Susan Hill
On a perfect sunny day Ruby has a hard time finding someone to play with.

**Scat, Cats!** by Joan Holub
A houseful of cats seems like too much until they are gone.

**Sometimes I Share** by Harriet Ziefert
It is not always easy sharing with your little brother.

**Swing Otto, Swing** by David Milgrim
Two monkeys try to teach a robot how to swing from a vine through the jungle.

**Turtle and Snake Go Camping** by Kate Spohn  [Series]
Turtle and snake are all set to camp out in the woods—until it gets dark.

**Whose Hat Is It?** by Valeri Gorbachev
A little turtle finds a big hat and sets off to find its rightful owner.

**Winnie All Day Long** by Leda Schubert  [Series]
Although she is unable to talk, Winnie the dog communicates very well.
Books in this section have slightly more complex sentence structure. Some sentences will alternate simple and compound words. There is an occasional unfamiliar word, and the sentences are longer, but the lines are still short. (Books are located in the E Beginning section unless otherwise noted.)

**Aggie and Ben: Three Stories** by Lori Ries
A little boy brings home his first pet and learns the ups and downs of owning a puppy.

**Amazing Gorillas!** by Sarah Thomson E599.884 T
Gorillas and people share some things in common.

**And I Mean it, Stanley** by Crosby Newell Bonsall
A little girl plays by herself until her dog arrives.

**Ants!** by Brenda Iasevoli E595.796 A
Meet the hardest working creatures of the insect world.

**Bees!** by Elizabeth Winchester E 595.799 B
Find out why bees stay so busy!

**Benny and Penny: Just Pretend** by Geoffrey Hayes
Benny the mouse wants to play pirate, but keeps being interrupted by his annoying little sister.

**The Best Nest** by P.D. Eastman
Mr. and Mrs. Bird’s search for a new nest leads them to some unexpected places.

**Boss for a Day** by Tomie De Paola
It isn’t always easy being a twin.

**The Fat Cat Sat on the Mat** by Nurit Karlin
Rat tries his best to move a fat cat.

**Giant Machines** by Seymour Simon E621.8 S
Discover how enormous machines do important jobs.

**Hello, Bumblebee Bat** by Darrin Lunde E599.4 L
Introducing the smallest bat in the world—the bumble bee bat.

**Hi! Fly Guy** by Tedd Arnold [Series]
A boy searches for a pet to enter into the “Most Amazing Pet Contest” and discovers an interesting fly.

**Jess and the Stinky Cowboys** by Janice Lee Smith
While the sheriff is out of town, his deputy Jess must find a way to deal with a bunch of stinky cowboys.

**Kick, Pass, and Run** by Leonard Kessler
Some animals aren’t sure what to do when they find a football.

**Morris the Moose** by Bernard Wiseman
Morris is convinced that the cow he meets is really a fellow moose.

**My Robot** by Eve Bunting
Cecil the robot can do many things, but being a friend is what he does best.

**Oliver Cat on Planet B** by Christine Kettner
A cat loses his button and must travel to space to find another.

**One Nosey Pup** by Carol Wallace
Poky the Beagle tries to find out who’s been stealing his food and makes a new friend.

**The Pizza That We Made** by Joan Holub
Three young chefs enjoy making their own pizza.

**A Polar Bear Can Swim** by Harriet Ziefert E590 Z
Large and small animals display their amazing abilities.

**Put Me in the Zoo** by Robert Lopshire
A large spotted animal performs amazing tricks.

**Ten Apples Up on Top!** by Dr. Seuss
Three animal friends balance apples on their heads.

**There Is A Bird On Your Head!** by Mo Willems [Series]
An elephant’s nap is interrupted when a bird lands on his head and decides to make himself at home.

**Vulture View** by April Pulley Sayre E 598.92 S
Unappreciated and often misunderstood, turkey vultures play an important role in nature.

**Wiggle and Waggle** by Caroline Arnold
Two worms enjoy digging and singing their way through a garden.
Here is a selection of more challenging books in the easy reader format; many of the stories are organized into chapters. The language begins to sound more natural, and there is a greater frequency of compound and complex sentences. The illustrations may begin to function more as decoration, rather than being integral to the text. (Books are located in the E Beginning section unless otherwise noted.)

**Amanda Pig, Schoolgirl** by Jean Van Leeuwen [Series]
A little pig named Amanda enjoys going to school as well as being with her friends.

**Ant and Honey Bee: What a Pair!** by Megan McDonald
An ant and bee must improvise at a costume party.

**Aunt Clara Brown: Official Pioneer** by Linda Lowery
Former slave Clara Brown travels west in search of her daughter and makes a small fortune.

**A Bargain for Frances** by Russell Hoban
Frances the badger gets quite a bargain when she buys her friend's tea set.

**Boo's Dinosaur** by Betsy Byars
A boy named Sammy tries to ignore his little sister's imaginary friend, who happens to be a dinosaur.

**Breakout at the Bug Lab** by Ruth Horowitz
A giant cockroach has escaped from the bug lab.

**Buffalo Bill and the Pony Express** by Eleanor Coerr
Ride along with young Bill Cody as he encounters danger and excitement while delivering mail in the 1860s.

**Cork & Fuzz: Short and Tall** by Dori Chaconas [Series]
A possum named Fuzz and a muskrat named Cork seem to have nothing in common until they discover a mutual hobby.

**Cowgirl Kate & Cocoa: School Days** by Betsy Lewin [Series]
A spunky little cowgirl and her faithful horse share a special friendship.

**Dinosaur Time** by Peggy Parish E568P
Find out how much you really know about these creatures of long ago.

**Frog and Toad Are Friends** by Arnold Lobel [Series]
Best friends Frog and Toad share life's ups and downs.

**George and Diggity** by Maggie Stern
A boy and his dog engage in unusual activities.

**Harley** by Star Livingstone
Unlike most llamas, Harley is not quite suited to being a pack animal.

**Hungry, Hungry Sharks** by Joanna Cole E597.31 C
Explore the world of this fascinating sea creature.

**Let The Good times Roll with Pirate Pete and Pirate Joe** by A.E. Cannon
Pirates can have just as much fun on land as they do at sea.

**Mary Clare Likes to Share** by Joy Hulme
Mary Clare always finds a way to share tasty treats with her friends. This title also introduces readers to the concept of fractions.

**Mercy Watson Goes For A Ride** by Kate DiCamillo [Series]
Mr. Watson and his pet pig Mercy take what is supposed to be a leisurely car ride.

**Minnie and Moo and the Haunted Sweater** by Denys Cazet [Series]
Two cows want to give the farmer a special present for his birthday, but something goes wrong when Moo knits him a sweater.

**The Octopus** by Denys Cazet
Barney has the Chicken Pox and feels very itchy. Luckily his grandpa knows a few anti-itch stories.

**Poppleton in Winter** by Cynthia Rylant [Series]
Poppleton the pig makes a new friend after an icicle accident and gets a winter surprise from his friends.

**Prairie School** by Avi
Living on the Colorado prairie during the 1880s, a boy named Noah sees no purpose in learning to read until a special visitor arrives.
Reading Rainbow Readers:
Adventure Stories That Will Thrill You
School Stories Your Dog Didn’t Eat
Sports Stories You’ll Have A Ball With
Silly Stories to Tickle Your Funny Bone
A collection of theme-related stories featuring familiar characters.

Seasons: A Book of Poems
by Charlotte Zolotow
A collection of poems that are short on words yet big on feelings.

Slender Ella and Her Fairy Hogfather
by Vivian Sathre
With the help of her Fairy Hogfather, Slender Ella the pig goes to a fancy hoedown.

Squirrel’s World
by Lisa Moser
Although his good intentions sometimes backfire, Squirrel is always there for his friends.

Keep the Lights Burning, Abbie
by Peter Roop  E387.1 B
When the lighthouse keeper fails to return, Abbie must take on an important job.

Why Do Rabbits Hop?
by Joan Holub  E636.9 H
Learn about rabbits, hamsters, guinea pigs and gerbils all in one book.

Young Cam Jansen and the Molly Shoe Mystery
by David Adler  [Series]
Using her photographic memory, Cam Jansen is able to help her Aunt Molly find her missing shoes at the airport.

Learning Kits for Beginning Readers
The following kits contain a selection of materials for new readers.

Hooked on Phonics
LeapPad Learning System
Phonics II
Hooked on Phonics 1st Grade
Phonics
Your Reading Power

(Learning Kits are available at the Main Library)
250+ Activities and Ideas for Developing Literacy Skills by M. Ellen Jay  
J372.6 J  Lower Level

Between The Lions Book For Parents: Everything You Need To Know To Help Your Child Learn To Read  
by Linda K. Rath & Louise Kennedy  
J649.58 R  Parents Collection 1st Floor

Growing a Reader from Birth: Your Child’s First Five Years from Language to Literacy  
by Diane McGuinness  
J372.4 M  Lower Level

Hey! I’m Reading! by Betty Miles  
E372.416 M  Lower Level

How to Get Your Child to Love Reading  
by Esmé Raji Codell  
J028.55 C  Parents Collection 1st Floor

Leamos! Let’s Read by Mary Behm  
J649.68 B  Parents Collection 1st Floor

The Read-Aloud Handbook by Jim Trelease  
J372.6 T 2006  Parents Collection 1st Floor

Read to Me: Raising Kids Who Love to Read  
by Bernice Cullinan  
J649.58 C  Parents Collection 1st Floor

The Reading Remedy: Six Essential Skills that will Turn your Child into a Reader.  
by Marion Blank  
J372.43 B  Parents Collection 1st Floor

Ready, Set, Read and Write  
by Marlene Barron  
J649.68 B  Lower Level

Straight Talk About Reading  
by Susan Hall  
J372.41 H  Lower Level

What Parents Can Do To Build Reading Skills For Children in Kindergarten & First Grade  
J372.4 W  Parents Collection 1st Floor  [Video]

EDUCATIONAL SOFTWARE

Bailey’s Book House  
JLOD 372.414 B 1st Floor

Reader Rabbit Learn to Read with Phonics  
JLOD 372.414 R 1st Floor

Clifford the Big Red Dog Phonics  
JLOD 372.414 C 1st Floor

INTERNET SOURCES

The following websites offer online publications related to reading success:

National Institute for Literacy  
www.nifl.gov

U.S. Department of Education  
www.ed.gov

The Ferguson Library gratefully acknowledges permission to use art from Hey! I’m Reading: A How-To-Read Book for Beginners by Betty Miles, illustrated by Sylvie Wickstrom. Knopf, 1995.  
09/08