

Guide to Books for 0-5 Year-Olds



Barnardos

EVERY CHILDHOOD. LASTS A LIFETIME

In association with



**Cow
& Gate**

ABOUT BARNARDOS

Barnardos addresses the real needs of children in Ireland. Children at risk. Children struggling to cope with bereavement. Children whose lives are affected by drug abuse, violence, illness and poverty. We believe many of these problems can and must be prevented, or tackled as soon as difficulties emerge. In our experience, most families have the strengths to cope, though these strengths may be hidden. Barnardos works to identify and to strengthen families' capacities to care for their children and to build better prospects for the future.

Barnardos exists to ensure that children's needs and rights are met and understood. We work in partnership with children, parents, families, other organisations, and the general public. We know that through all of us working together we can truly make a difference to children's lives now and in the future.

BARNARDOS ADVANCES THE WELFARE OF CHILDREN AND THEIR FAMILIES IN IRELAND BY:

- Providing effective services for children and families where and when they need it.
- Advocating for children's rights, the improvement of children's welfare and influencing the development of policy and provision for children.

OUR SERVICES INCLUDE

- Family Support Services
- Sólás - Bereavement Counselling for Children
- Origins - Information and Tracing Service
- National Children's Resource Centre
- Beacon - Guardian ad Litem Service

Guide to Books for 0-5 Year-Olds



The value of reading to children is immeasurable. As we read to children we are helping to open their imaginations, teaching them new words, new ideas and new languages. We teach them about life, its rules and its possibilities. We tell them "I love you" in a hundred ways. We show them how to say, "It hurts" and "I'm sorry" through pigs, bunnies, dogs and elephants. We hold our children close as each story unfolds, laughing, crying and grimacing, sharing worlds that unfold before our eyes. When we read to our children we show them the wonder of stories and the power of words. We simply cannot do it enough.

I began this list in 1997 when I was reading books to young children in the USA. The list is unending as the number of wonderful children's books published grows daily. Now I read books to children in Ireland and their laughter reminds me that a great book is universal and timeless. I thank every child who has allowed me to share each story. I also thank my Barnardos colleagues for their contributions and suggestions. These proved invaluable and reminded me of the universal appeal of a beautiful book.

This guide has arisen and evolved from the requests of children and the response of adults. It is merely a starting place in the discovery of great stories. It is my hope that it reveals the wonder of stories and the magic that unfolds in their telling.

Barbara Ryan

Lead Pre-school Worker, Barnardos, September 2003

Cow & Gate is delighted to sponsor Barnardos' first-ever Guide to Books for 0-5 Year-Olds. Although it would be impossible to list every children's book ever published, we hope that it includes some of your own favourites. It is our wish that the guide will offer stimulating 'food for thought' for parents, relatives and carers looking to bring the joy of reading into the lives of the babies, toddlers and children in their care.

Enjoy!

Aileen Regan

Head of Customer Services, Cow & Gate Ireland

The books recommended in this guide are available from Irish bookshops and libraries and priced between €3 and €15.

Recommended Books for 0 to Toddler



GUESS HOW MUCH I LOVE YOU

SAM MCBRATNEY

0 TO 5 YEARS

This book is a must have for every child and will never be read too much. It is beautifully yet simply illustrated and tells the story of two hares trying to outmeasure each other's love. It comes in hard and soft back and all sizes, suitable for every age.

ISBN: 0 862783 90 9

Publisher: The O'Brien Press



GOODNIGHT MOON

MARGARET BROWN WISE

0 TO 2 YEARS

A story that is beautifully illustrated with few words and which children love to memorise. A lovely bedtime story.

ISBN: 0 333961 07 2

Publisher: Campbell Books



TICKLE, TICKLE

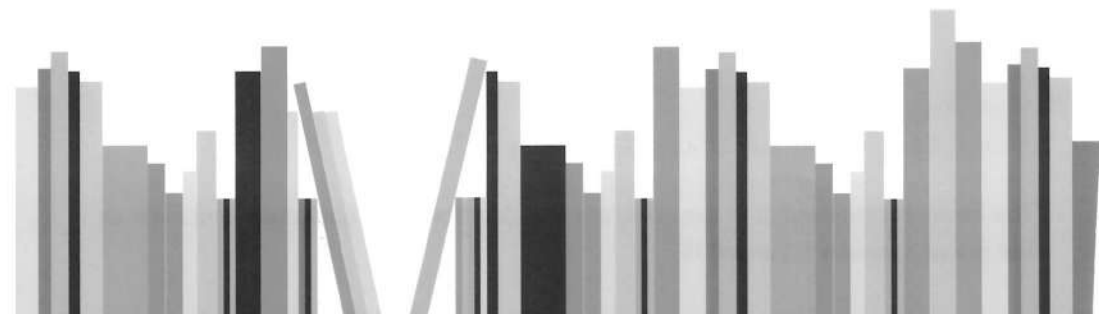
HELEN OXENBURY

0 TO 2 YEARS

This series of books for the very young child includes *Clap Hands*, *Say Goodnight*, and *All Fall Down*. Each book is colourful, charming and appealing to children. These are beautiful and enjoyable books for children and grown-ups.

ISBN: 0 744567 84 X

Publisher: Walker Books





BROWN BEAR, BROWN BEAR, WHAT DO YOU SEE?

BILL MARTIN
0 TO 2 YEARS

Eric Carle's illustrations provide a captivating book with a rhyming and repeated text. This book is loved by toddlers.

ISBN: 0 140502 96 3

Publisher: Puffin Books



MY DAD
ANTHONY BROWNE
12 MONTHS TO 3 YEARS

A charming book that highlights Dad who is as strong as a house and soft as a teddy. A great book for toddlers and parents.

ISBN: 0 385606 13 3

Publisher: Doubleday



LUCY AND TOM'S ABC
SHIRLEY HUGHES
0 TO 2 YEARS

A great book for children interested in ABCs or just for fun. As with all Shirley Hughes stories the illustrations enrich the text, making this an especially attractive and charming book full of familiar, everyday images.

ISBN: 0 140505 21 0

Publisher: Puffin Books



DEAR ZOO
ROD CAMPBELL
12 MONTHS TO 4 YEARS

A simple, animal story that children can memorise and never tire of repeating. Children love to open the flaps and anticipate the next animal.

ISBN: 0 140504 46 X

Publisher: Puffin Books





OLIVIA'S OPPOSITES

IAN FALCONER

0 TO 2 YEARS

A beautiful, simple book where a piglet shows young children such concepts as tall by standing on her tippy toes. A lovely book to read with very young children, as the words are few and the drawings plain yet charming.

ISBN: 0 689836 74 0

Publisher: Simon & Schuster



TEN IN THE BED

PENNY DALE

12 MONTHS TO 3 YEARS

This book puts the well-known song to story. This book is beautifully illustrated with lots of details for children to enjoy as they follow the story of each animal as they fall out of bed. The animals get up to mischief as they are left to their own devices before climbing back in to sleep.

ISBN: 0 744575 24 9

Publisher: Walker Books



OWL BABIES

MARTIN WADDELL

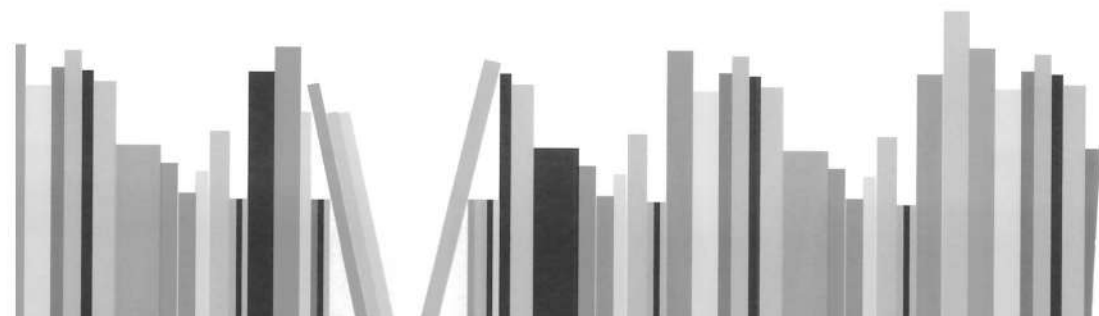
12 MONTHS TO 4 YEARS

A great favourite for the young and older child about newborn owls whose mother leaves them to look for food and they fret until her return. Children enjoy memorising this book and love the mother owl's safe homecoming. This book is beautifully written and drawn and will be requested endlessly.

Other recommended books by the same author include Farmer Duck, Can't You Sleep Little Bear? and Bhí Fathaigh Ann Uair.

ISBN: 0 862783 92 5

Publisher: The O'Brien Press





EMMA AND JULIA IN THE KITCHEN

LUCINDA JACOB

12 MONTHS TO 2 YEARS

A young child's book where each line is written in English and Irish. The book is written in language simple enough for the young child and accessible to the adult whose Irish is rusty or non-existent. The drawings are also simple and attractive. Watch out for other books in the *Emma and Julia* series.

ISBN: 1 853715 14 X

Publisher: Poolbeg Press



PEEPO

JANET AND ALLAN AHLBERG

12 MONTHS TO 2 YEARS

An endlessly enjoyable read that is full of surprises. The pages of the story have round peepholes for children to see through and anticipate the next page.

All other stories by Janet and Allan Ahlberg are highly recommended for children.

ISBN: 0 140503 84 6

Publisher: Puffin Books



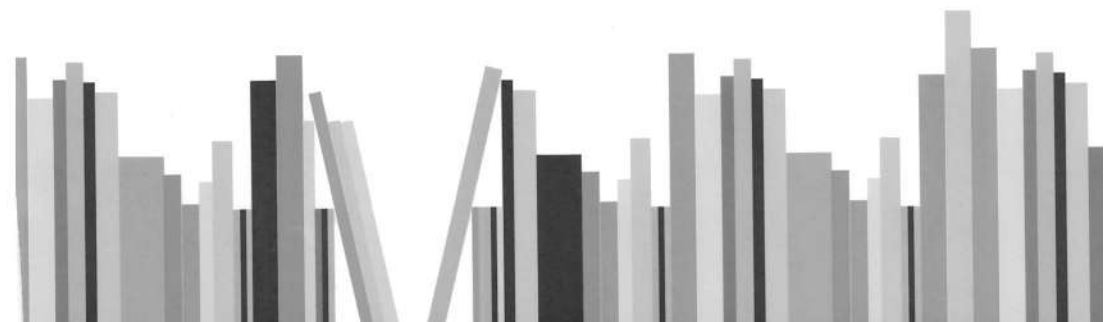
MAISY STORYBOOKS

LUCY COUSINS

12 MONTHS TO 4 YEARS

Young children love the predictability and simplicity of Maisy stories. She is a wonderfully appealing character that children love and quickly identify. In these stories Maisy makes friends, cooks, goes to school, plays dress up and has a birthday party.

Publisher: Walker Books





WHERE'S SPOT?

ERIC HILL

12 MONTHS TO 4 YEARS

Spot the dog hides from his Mammy, Sally. Children love to lift the flaps finding Spot's friends, the penguin, crocodile and monkey until Spot is found in his basket. *Spot books are available in hard or soft back as well as all sizes. Spot stories are also available in Irish.*

ISBN: 0 140504 20 6

Publisher: Puffin Books



THE WHEELS ON THE BUS

PAUL ZELINSKY

0 TO 4 YEARS

This traditional children's song is humorously illustrated. Children love this song and Zelinsky's book brings it alive. Sing, clap or simply turn the pages.

ISBN: 1 843621 95 9

Publisher: Orchard Books



ONE LITTLE ELEPHANT

COLIN WEST

0 TO 2 YEARS

A rhyming book where the elephants play, surf and skate their way from one to ten. The drawings are attractive and the rhymes easy to remember.

Also recommended by the same author, Ten Little Crocodiles.

ISBN: 0 744523 45 1

Publisher: Walker Books



LET'S COUNT

LYNN GRUNDY

0 TO 2 YEARS

A great counting or just for fun book for young children.

ISBN: 0 721415 09 1

Publisher: Ladybird Books





BE GENTLE
VIRGINIA MILLER
12 MONTHS TO 3 YEARS

In this story a Daddy bear encourages his baby bear to be gentle with a new kitten. It takes a while before he gets the message. This is a lovely message, beautifully and gently told.

ISBN: 0 744581 31 1

Publisher: Walker Books



WHOSE FEET?
JEANNETTE ROWE
12 MONTHS TO 3 YEARS

This is a wonderfully simple flap book that allows children to guess the animal by its feet. Children are endlessly amused by the book, especially when the adult announces the wrong animal!

ISBN: 0 862786 71 1

Publisher: The O'Brien Press



I WANT MY POTTY
TONY ROSS
12 MONTHS TO 3 YEARS

A funny book about a princess learning to use the potty. An ideal book for toilet training or just for giggles.

ISBN: 0 006626 87 4

Publisher: Collins Picture Lions



MOG AND ME
JUDITH KERR
12 MONTHS TO 2 YEARS

A short and well illustrated book that shows a young girl's affection for her cat. A book of few words and well suited to the younger child.

ISBN: 0 001384 16 3

Publisher: Collins

“Two kinds of books are especially helpful in building the confidence, imagination and vocabulary of pre-readers: wordless books and predictable books.”

Jim Trelease, *The New Read-Aloud Handbook*
(Penguin USA, 1989)

Recommended Books for 2-5 Year-Olds



GOOD DOG CARL

ALEXANDRA DAY

2 TO 5 YEARS

Carl books are old favourites. They contain little and sometimes no text so that the child and adult make up the story as they go. The illustrations are very rich and appeal to children of all ages.

ISBN: 0 671752 04 9

Publisher: Simon & Schuster



FIVE MINUTES PEACE

JILL MURPHY

2 TO 5 YEARS

A story for parents and children, with exhausted Mammy elephant looking for some quiet. The illustrations are excellent and children identify easily with the children begging for their Mammy's attention.

Other books by the author are highly recommended.

ISBN: 0 744560 01 2

Publisher: Walker Books



IN MY POCKET

JUNE CREBBIN

2 TO 4 YEARS

A simple counting tale of a little girl with a hole in her pocket. Children like to choose their favourite item from each page as they count sweets, sticks and money.

ISBN: 0 744583 06 3

Publisher: Walker Books





I WAS SO MAD

MERCER MAYER

2 TO 5 YEARS

There are a great number of Mercer Mayer books to choose from. Many of them have the same main porcupine character with infinite facial expressions and emotions. All of this writer's books are extremely popular for children, and fun for adults to read.

There's Something In My Attic by this author is a wonderful book for children afraid of the dark.

ISBN: 0 3071 19 39 4

Publisher: Golden Books



ANDREW'S BATH

DAVID MCPHAIL

2 TO 5 YEARS

A great story about a boy giving himself a bath with lots of visiting animals, very well written and drawn. This book is endlessly enjoyable. It has clear short sentences and appeals to the child who doesn't want to go to bed.

ISBN: 0 140553 62 2

Publisher: Puffin Books



THE MITTEN

JAN BRETT

4 TO 5 YEARS

A wonderful fable-like story with magnificent drawings. Children love to hear and act out this story as it appeals to the young imagination. This story and Jan Brett's other books are a little more sophisticated than others and highly recommended. *The Mitten* is especially lovely for grandmothers and their grandchildren.

ISBN: 0 399219 20 X

Publisher: Putnam Publishing Group





SUDDENLY
COLIN MCNAUGHTON
2 TO 5 YEARS

Another 'behind you' story that children love to anticipate. The main characters are pigs and wolves and there's plenty of enjoyable mischief. *Suddenly* has a bully that children like to dislike. Check out *Boo* by the same author which is especially fun for Dads and their children.

Children love the scare that waits around each page.

ISBN: 0 007140 13 4

Publisher: Collins Picture Lions



THE VERY HUNGRY CATERPILLAR
ERIC CARLE
3 TO 5 YEARS

A colourful, beautifully illustrated story that is timeless and always loved. There's plenty for children to chat about on each page as the caterpillar eats his way through the pages.

Other recommended stories by the same author include *The Very Quiet Cricket* with the chirping of a cricket on the last page, 1, 2, 3, *To The Zoo* for children interested in counting and animals, and *The Bad Tempered Ladybird*.

ISBN: 0 140569 32 4

Publisher: Puffin Books





FROGGY LEARNS TO SWIM

JONATHAN LONDON

3 TO 5 YEARS

Each of the books in the *Froggy* series is hilarious for children and adults alike. Children love to memorise the rhyming sentences and anticipate Froggy's silly antics. Especially fun for Dads to read with children.

Check out the Froggy books, where Froggy learns to play soccer, goes to school and plays in the snow.

ISBN: 0 140553 12 6

Publisher: Putnam Publishing Group



AN EVENING AT ALFIE'S

SHIRLEY HUGHES

3 TO 5 YEARS

This is a beautifully illustrated story that tells of a babysitter's catastrophe when minding the children. It's a gentle story and packed with things for children to chat about. All Shirley Hughes tales are highly recommended.

ISBN: 0 099256 04 5

Publisher: Red Fox



THE TIGER WHO CAME TO TEA

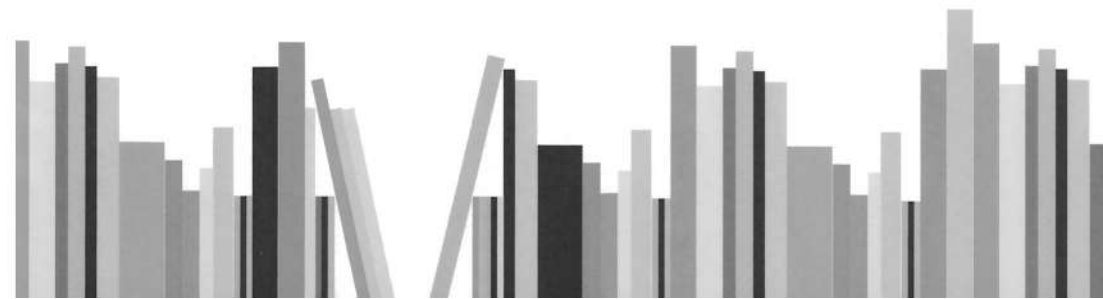
JUDITH KERR

3 TO 5 YEARS

Although this book was first published in the 1960s it is a timeless classic that still appeals to children. An enormous tiger eats all the food in the house and drinks up every drop so they have to dine out that evening. It's a beautiful story told simply and loved by children.

ISBN: 0 006640 61 3

Publisher: Collins Picture Lions





QUICK AS A CRICKET
AUDREY AND DON WOOD
2 TO 5 YEARS

This is a beautiful rhyming book that expresses the uniqueness of us all. Audrey and Don Wood have written a number of books for pre-school aged children and they are each wonderfully written and illustrated. Their books are highly recommended for their words, rhymes, tales and pictures. They are endlessly enjoyable for children and adults.

Other books by Audrey and Don Wood include The Big Hungry Bear and King Bidgood's in the Bathtub.

ISBN: 0 859533 31 X

Publisher: Child's Play Ltd



THE TROUBLE WITH MUM
BABETTE COLE
2 TO 5 YEARS

A humorous book that is as much fun for the adult as it is for the child. The story has great illustrations and is well told.

Other recommended books by Babette Cole include The Trouble with Dad, Princess Smartypants, Winni Allfours and others.

ISBN: 0 006623 77 8

Publisher: Collins Picture Lions

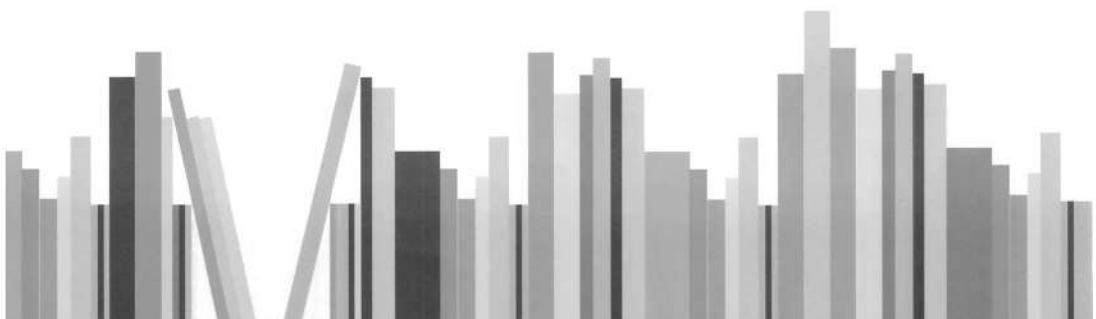


THE STORY OF SPIDER
JACKIE ROBB AND BERNY STRINGLE
2 TO 5 YEARS

A great story for anyone scared of spiders. This rhyming book has wonderful illustrations that match the humour of the book. Children love the spider in the loo.

ISBN: 1 856023 18 4

Publisher: Chrysalis Children's Books





WHERE THE SIDEWALK ENDS

SHEL SILVERSTEIN

3 TO 5 YEARS

A wonderful book of silly poetry that is very child-centred. The humorous but simple illustrations match the quirky rhymes. Children easily remember and recite the rhymes, making this an especially good early language book. All Shel Silverstein's books are recommended.

ISBN: 0 060256 67 2

Publisher: Harper and Row



THE BOLD BOY

MALACHY DOYLE

3 TO 5 YEARS

This book is written by an Irish author; now living in Wales. The story's wonderful, catchy rhymes are perfect for children practising early language as the words are repeated in sing-along style. The story follows a boy who loses a pea and must find it. He gets into trouble along the way. The story is like an Irish Gingerbread Man story.

ISBN: 0 744589 37 1

Publisher: Walker Books



THE MONSTER AT THE END OF THIS BOOK

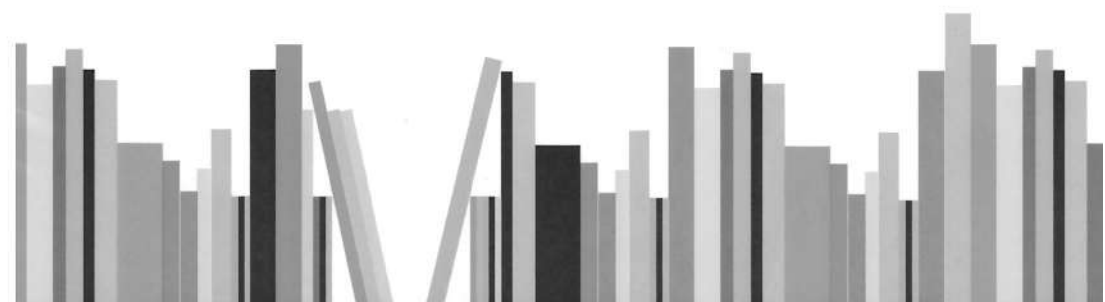
JON STONE

2 TO 4 YEARS

A wonderfully silly book that has Grover warning the reader of the monster at the end of the book. The monster hilariously is Grover himself. Children love to answer Grover's warnings not to turn the next page. This book is very engaging.

ISBN: 0 307160 25 4

Publisher: Golden Books





LOOK OUT, HE'S BEHIND YOU!
TONY BRADMAN AND MARGARET CHAMBERLAIN
2 TO 4 YEARS

A funny Red Riding Hood story with flaps. Children enjoy finding the wolf under each flap. The book is short, pithy and ideal for the young reader.

ISBN: 0 749700 24 6

Publisher: Mammoth



WHERE THE WILD THINGS ARE
MAURICE SENDAK
3 TO 5 YEARS

This tells the story of a little boy who is sent to his room for misbehaving. He imagines entering a forest of large beasts. The illustrations are exceptional as they charm without scaring the reader. The story is told in rhythmic style and has a happy ending.

ISBN: 0 099408 39 2

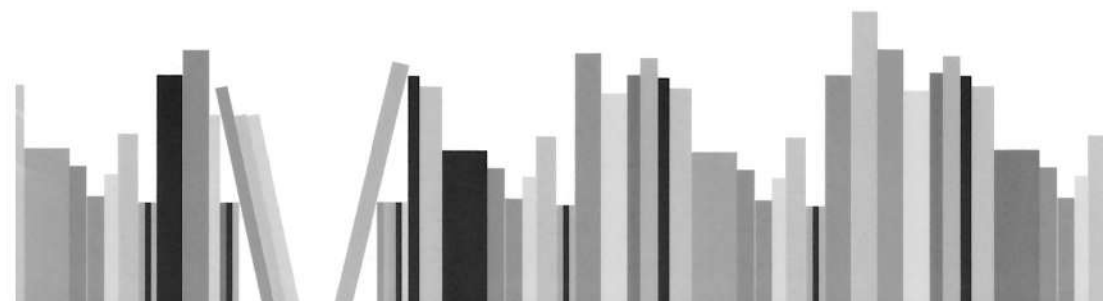
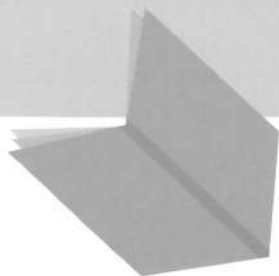
Publisher: Red Fox



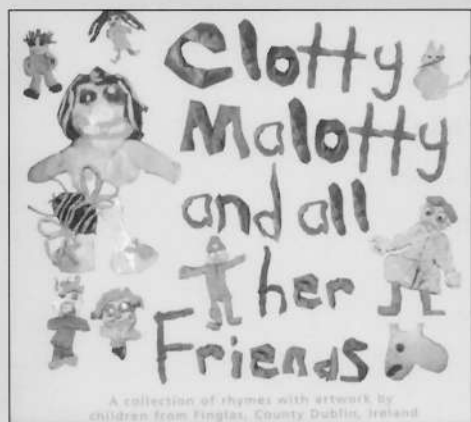
“Predictable books...allow children to put the oral language they already own to immediate use, thus experiencing at least partial success with ‘memorized reading’.

It is of critical importance that the child’s early experiences with print be successful ones – even if the ‘success’ is only in his mind.”

Jim Trelease, *The New Read-Aloud Handbook*
(Penguin USA, 1989)



Also available from
Barnardos' National Children's Resource Centre



Clotty Malotty and all her Friends

A collection of rhymes with
artwork by children
from Finglas, Co. Dublin

Clotty Malotty and all her Friends is a collection of rhymes and jingles, some old and some new, which were collected and illustrated by a group of 8-year-olds – Traveller and settled – from St. Joseph's National School in Finglas.

Focusing on rhymes from the settled and Traveller community of North Dublin, this book opens the doorway to explore rhymes from different cultures around the world.

Illustrated in full colour throughout, this book will be enjoyed by children from 8-11 years.

Clotty Malotty and all her Friends costs €10 plus 92c postage.

To order please contact
Barnardos' National Children's Resource Centre on 01 454 9699.

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free help,
samples and
money-off
vouchers

Cow & Gate has been helping mums and babies for almost a century. Our 'In Touch' programme has grown out of that experience, to support you through your pregnancy, the birth of your baby and on into your baby's early life.

Joining the Cow & Gate 'In Touch' programme is a great way to get reliable advice and practical help during your pregnancy and your baby's first year. We'll send you regular packs with exclusive information and offers only available to members of 'In Touch'.



 Cow & Gate

in touch

because what you feed your baby now matters forever

 Cow & Gate Freephone careline

ROI 1-800 570 570
NI 0800 243 025
www.cowandgate.ie

Guide to Books for 0-5 Year-Olds

“Don’t read stories that you don’t enjoy yourself.

Don’t read above a child’s emotional level...challenge them but don’t overwhelm them.

Don’t put off the child’s questions. There is no time limit for reading a book but there is a time limit on a child’s inquisitiveness.”

Jim Trelease

**The New Read-Aloud Handbook
(Penguin USA, 1989)**

Published by
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Christchurch Square
Dublin 8

ISBN: 1 898662 79 7

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1993-2003

Celebrating 10 Years of Barnardos’ National Children’s Resource Centre