

A selection of books from the current CLPE Core Booklist for the Foundation Stage - some old favourites and some new titles.

(First two titles shown on CLPE library website)

Augustus and his Smile by Catherine Rayner

Little Tiger Press

Augustus the tiger believes he has lost his smile so he sets off to find it. His search takes him to the tops of the tallest trees, over mountains and to the bottom of the ocean. Finally he realises it was there all along. The collage style, almost tactile, illustrations are beautifully uncluttered.

Dig Dig Digging by Margaret Mayo and Alex Ayliffe

Orchard

Lively verses about machines and the work they do. The rhythm of the words mimics the repetitive actions of the machines, as does the way they are laid out on the bright colourful pages. 'Tractors are good at pull, pull, pulling, Ploughing up the field with a squelch, squelch, squelching.'

Down the Back of the Chair by Margaret Mahy and Polly Dunbar

Frances Lincoln

A hilarious rambling rhyming story, full of surprises. When Dad loses the car keys, his daughter suggests that he looks down the back of the chair. All manner of fantastic things are secreted there: 'A sip, a sup, a sop, a song, a spider seven inches long'. The illustrations reflect the comic mayhem of the text.

The Farmyard Jamboree by Margaret Read MacDonald and Sophie Fatus

Barefoot

A lively cumulative song inspired by a Chilean folk tale and set to music on an accompanying CD encouraging energetic participation. A child is given a hen by his grandfather. Further family gifts of animals, each of which gives birth to offspring, mean that eventually he has sixteen pets.

Hungry Hen by Richard Waring and Caroline Jayne Church

Oxford University Press. Available as a big book.

A hen down on the farm eats and grows bigger, seemingly oblivious to the fox on the hill who is eyeing her hungrily. The fox waits, anticipating a more satisfying meal the larger the hen becomes until, one day, he can bear it no longer and he dashes down the hill...

Knuffle Bunny by Mo Willems

Walker

Trixie goes with her dad to the Laundromat but on the way home – a disaster happens! Trixie can't talk yet and Dad can't work out what she is so desperately trying to communicate, until Mum asks 'Where's Knuffle Bunny?' A tale of a lost toy humorously rendered in cartoon style drawings superimposed on sepia toned photographs.

“Let's Get a Pup!” by Bob Graham

Walker

Kate and her mum and dad go to the rescue centre to choose a puppy. They come home with small and excitable Dave. However, they can't forget Rosy who was 'old and grey and broad as a table', and the next day they rush back to get her as well!

Lost and Found by Oliver Jeffers

HarperCollins

An endearing story about a boy and a penguin played out on wide, well-designed pages. The boy finds a way to return his forlorn friend to the South Pole, only to discover that the reason for the penguin's sadness is not what he supposed at all.

Lulu Loves the Library by Anna McQuinn and Rosalind Beardshaw

Alanna Books

A celebration of adults and children sharing books together. Lulu and her mum visit the library every Tuesday. They change their books, listen to stories being read and join in with songs and rhymes. At bedtime they enjoy the books they have chosen. Read in a variety of languages on an accompanying CD.

Mister Magnolia by Quentin Blake

Red Fox

A picture book classic featuring Quentin Blake's quintessential and highly recognisable style. The memorable rhyming text features the delightful Mister Magnolia who 'has only one boot'. It is surprising to discover so many possible rhymes for 'boot', with such a variety of spellings - flute, newt, suit, salute, etc.

Naughty Bus by Jan and Jerry Oke

Little Knowall Publishing

An eye-catching picture book using photographs and typeface that blurs and blends to depict a child's imaginative game as he plays with a toy London bus. The bus has a multitude of adventures, including speeding through a plate of beans and falling into the garden pond. The text mimics a child's descriptive dialogue as he plays.

On the Road by Susan Steggall

Frances Lincoln

Words and pictures follow the progress of a small red car taking a family on a journey from home to the sea. The intriguing collage illustrations, incorporating a variety of types and textures of paper, depict different forms of road transport, which are interesting to spot and name.

Penguin by Polly Dunbar
Walker

Ben tries all manner of ways to make his penguin respond to him. Frustrated, he attempts to feed the penguin to a lion, who has other ideas. In a splendid denouement, the penguin demonstrates that he can communicate after all. The illustrations making good use of white space on well-designed pages combine beautifully with the understated text.

Shark in the Park! by Nick Sharratt
Corgi. Available as a big book.

An inventive hole in the page book. Timothy Pope takes his new telescope to the park and seems to see sharks everywhere. However, when the page is turned and the whole picture is revealed, the viewer gets a different perspective. But is Timothy entirely wrong about there being a shark in the park?

We All Went on Safari. A Counting Journey through Tanzania by Laurie Krebs and Julie Cairns
Barefoot Books

Making a journey through the grasslands of Tanzania, some children count the animals they see as they walk. A rhyming and alliterative text is accompanied by illustrations depicting wide vistas with their variety of wild animals and the children in their traditional Maasai dress.