

Children's Books That Focus on Language Goals

(collated by Dr. Bonnie Lund, Minnesota State University, Mankato
added here with her permission)

Pronouns

- Choosing is Fun by Mary Bachman (C)
- Tweety Plays Catch the Puddy Tat by Eileen Daly (C)
- The Very Busy Spider by Eric Carle (C)
- Tauny Scrauny Lion Saves the Day (C)
- Georgia Music by Helen V. Griffith (C)
- Shiny Seaside by Stephens (M)
- The Little Farm by Lois Lenski (M)
- Love Me, Love You by Susan Heyboer O'Keefe (M)
- Flamingo's on the Roof (Poems and Paintings) By Calef Brown
- Emily's Everyday Manners By Peggy Post & Cindy Post Senning
- Apples, Apples, Apples by Nancy Elizabeth Wallace
- When Mama Comes Home Tonight by Eileen Spipelli
- What We Do – verbs and rhyming
- It's My School by Grindley, Sally
- If I Ran The Family by Kaiser-Johnson, Lee and Sue
- Selfish Sophie by Keller, Damian
- The Very Little Girl by Krasilovsky, Philis
- The Very Little Boy by Krasilovsky, Philis
- One Fish, Two Fish, Three Fish, Blue Fish by Dr. Seuss – adjectives
- Animal Daddy and My Daddy by Barbara Shook Hazen
- Amelia Bedelia by Peggy Parrish
- Who Does Baby Mickey Meet? by Disney Babies

Prepositions

- Where is Baby Mickey's Red Ball (C)
- The Littlest Christmas Elf by Nancy Buss (C)
- Up, Down, and All Around (C)
- Nursery Rhymes by Dean Baard (C)
- Meet the Muppet Babies by Louise Gikow (C)
- Who's in the Sea? by Charles Resoner (C)
- The Magic School Bus by Joanna Cole (C)
- The Cat in the Hat by Dr. Seuss (C)
- Little Red Hen by Alan Garner (M)
- Dog and Cat by Lynn Reiser (M)
- Shiny Seaside by Stephens (M)
- Bark George by Jules Feiffer (M)
- Look Up, Look Down by Tana Hoban (M)
- Big and Little by Ruth Krauss (M)
- Go, Dog. Go! by P.D. Eastman (M)
- Pippa's Puppy by Mackinnon-Sieveking (M)
- Where Does It Go? by Margaret Miller (M)
- Hop On Pop by Dr. Suess

- Nate the Great Goes Down in the Dump by Marjorie Weinman Sharmat
- Cows in the Kitchen
- Up The Wall by Heller, Nicholas
- The Boy who Cried Wolf by B. G. Hennessy - negatives
- Old McDonald has a Woodshop by L. Shulman
- Jump Frog Jump by Robert Kalan
- Bears Into the Night by Stan and Jan Berenstein
- Jamberry by Bruce Degen
- Herman's Hiding Places by Karen Emigh
- Where is Jake? by Mary Packard
- Where Do Bears Sleep?
- We're Going on a Bear Hunt by Michael Rosew

Be Verbs

- The Cat in the Hat by Dr. Seuss (C)
- The Welcoming Party by Sarah Fletcher (C)
- Oh the Thinks You Can Think by Dr. Seuss (C)
- The Other Emily by Linda Shute (C)
- The Little Bears Friend by Else Minarik (C)
- Three Little Pigs by Margot Zemach
- I Know an Old Lady Who Swallowed a Fly by Glen Rounds

Verb Vocabulary

- The Cat in the Hat by Dr. Seuss (C)
- Georgia Music by Helen Griffith (C)
- Peter Goes to School by Wanda Rogers House (C)
- Nothing to Do Puppy by Cyndy Seekers (C)
- The Jungle Book by Walt Disney (C)
- Baby Donald's Day at the Beach (C)
- Moo, Cow by Salina Yoon (M)
- Dog and Cat by Lynn Reiser (M)
- Busy, Busy Mouse by Virginia Kroll (M)
- Shiny Seaside by Stephens (M)
- The Little Farm by Lois Lenski (M)
- Ballerina by Peter Sis (M)
- Playtime Rhymes by S. McKellar - vocabulary
- Teddy Bear, Teddy Bear by S. Scott – nouns and vocabulary
- I'm Not Cute! by Jonathon Allen
- Eyes, Nose, Fingers, and Toes by Judy Hindley
- Head to Toe by Eric Carle

Past Tense Verbs

- Harriets Horrible Hair Day by Dawn Lesley Stewart
- The Singing Chick by Victoria Stenmark
- Dinner at the Panda Palace
- Too many Babas
- The Mouse's Tale by Johnson, Pamela
- The House that Jack by E. Bolam
- Froggy Plays Soccer by Jonathan London

- Love You Forever by Robert Munsch
- The Goldfish Yawned by Elizabeth Sayles
- Busy, Busy Mouse by Virginia Kroll (M)
- Stick Kid by Peter Holwitz

-ing ending

- The Very Busy Spider by Eric Carle (C)
- The Sick Story by Linda Hirsch (C)
- Baby Gonzo's Unfinished Dream by Joanne Barkan (C)
- Love is... by Butcher (C)
- Busy, Busy Mouse by Virginia Kroll (M)
- I Went Walking by Sue Williams
- Walk with Your Eyes
- The Aunts Go Marching by Manning, Maurie J
- Jump, Dutton by Lavis, Steve
- Henny Penny by Jane Wattenberg

Questions

- What's That Noise, Baby Daisy? (C)
- Polar Bear, Polar Bear What Do You Hear? By Bill Martin, Jr. and Eric Carle (C)
- What Will You Do Today? (C)
- What if it Never Stops Raining? By Nancy Carlson (C)
- How Many Trucks Can a Tow Truck Tow? (C)
- My Name is Grover by Trish Rabe (C)
- A New Doll for Baby Daisy (C)
- The Strongest One of All by Mirra Ginsburg (M)
- Rude Mule by Pamela Duncan Edwards (M)
- Where is My Friend? by Marcus Pfister (M)
- Pippa's Puppy by Mackinnon-Sievekingg (M)
- Cat's Colors By Jane Cabrera
- How do you count a Dozen Ducklings? By In Seon Chase
- Where Does the Brown Bear Go? By Nicki Weiss
- Are We There Yet Daddy? By Virginia Walters
- How Do I Put It On? By Shigeo Watanabe
- Is Susan Here? By Janice May Udry
- Does a Cow Boo?
- Who Says Woof? By John Butler
- Guess Who? By Pam Ayres
- Who Will be my Friend? By Syd Hoff
- Mealtime by Maureen Roffey
- What's What? A Guessing Game by Mary Serfozo
- What to Say and When to Say it by Bill Martin Jr
- Baby Bear, Baby Bear, What do you See? by Bill Martin Jr and Eric Carle
- When Winter Comes by Nancy VanLaan
- Peek-a-Book by Lee Wardlaw
- How do Dinosaurs Eat Their Food? by Jane Yolen and Mark Teague
- Who stole my shoe? by Karen Emigh
- Where is Jake? by Mary Packard
- Head to Toe by Eric Carle

Complex Sentences

- Mickey Mouse and the Mouseketeers Ghost Town Adventure (C)
- The Usborne Book of Countries of the World Facts by Neil Champion (C)
- Diesel's Devious Deed by Awdry (C)
- A Rose for Pinkerton by Steven Kellog (C)
- Lon Po Po by Ed Young (C)
- Ready For School by Michael Berenstain (C)
- Moses the Kitten by James Herriot (C)
- Ella, of Course! By Sarah Weeks – and questions
- The Big Storm by Rhea Tregebov
- The Very Best of Friends by Margaret Wild
- The Journey by Sarah Stewart

Negatives

- Clifford the Big Red Dog by Norman Bradwell (C)
- The Big Storm (C)
- Week at Grandma's by Stan and Jan Berenstain (C)
- The Cat in the Hat by Dr. Seuss (C)
- Mr. Pussykins By Sam Lloyd
- No, David by David Shannon
- Green Eggs and Ham by Dr. Suess
- Three Little Chickens by Paul Galdone
- I'm Not Cute! by Jonathon Allen

Predictable/Repetition

- The Cat Came Back by Bill Slavin (M)
- Teddy Bear, Teddy Bear by Steve Scott (M)
- I Had a Rooster by Laura Vaccaro Seeger (M)
- There Was an Old Lady Who Swallowed a Trout by Henry Holt (M)
- Fiddle-I-Fee by Melissa Sweet (M)
- Little Red Hen by Alan Garner (M)
- The Bear Went Over the Mountain by Rosemary Wells (M)
- Baby Danced the Polka by Karen Beaumont (M)
- Peek-a-Zoo by Marie Torres Cimarusti (M)
- Mrs. McNosh Hangs Up Her Wash by Sarah Weeks (M)
- Mister Momboo's Hat by Ralph Loomis (M)
- Plumply, Dumpy Pumpkin by Mary Serfozo (M)
- Busy, Busy Mouse by Virginia Kroll (M)
- Love Me, Love You by Susan Heyboer O'Keefe (M)
- Bark George by Jules Feiffer (M)
- Any Kind of Dog by Lynn Reiser (M)
- The Strongest One of All by Mirra Ginsburg (M)
- Rude Mule by Pamela Duncan Edwards (M)
- No No, Jo! by Kate and Jim McMullan (M)
- Good Morning, Sun! by Harriet Ziefert (M)
- Big and Little by Ruth Krauss (M)
- Jason Goes to Show-and-Tell by Colleen Sutherland (M)

- I Took My Frog to the Library by Eric A. Kimmel (M)
- A Porcupine Named Fluffy by Helen Lester (M)
- “Eat” Cried Little Pig by Jonathan London (M)
- Good Morning Pond by Alyssa Satin Capucilli

Rhyming

- The Cat Came Back by Bill Slavin (M)
- The Whole Night Through by David Frampton (M)
- Teddy Bear, Teddy Bear by Steve Scott (M)
- I Had a Rooster by Laura Vaccaro Seeger (M)
- There Was an Old Lady Who Swallowed a Trout by Henry Holt (M)
- Fiddle-I-Fee by Melissa Sweet (M)
- Busy, Busy Mouse by Virginia Kroll (M)
- Moo, Cow by Salina Yoon (M)
- Plumply, Dumply Pumpkin by Mary Serfozo (M)
- Mrs. McNosh Hanged Up Her Wash by Sarah Weeks (M)
- Dog and Cat by Lynn Reiser (M)
- Shiny Seaside by Stephens (M)
- Love Me, Love You by Susan Heyboer O’Keefe (M)
- Apples and Pumpkins (M)
- Baby Danced the Polka by Karen Beaumont (M)
- Dog Tales by Janet McLean (M)
- No No, Jo! by Kate and Jim McMullan (M)
- Mister Momboo’s Hat by Ralph Loomis (M)
- Green Cat by Dayal Kaur Khalsa (M)
- One Bear, One Dog by Paul Stickland (M)
- Oh No, Gotta Go! by Susan Middleton Elya (M) – rhyming in English and Spanish
- “Eat” Cried Little Pig by Jonathan London (M)
- Dance by the Light of the Moon By Joanne Ryder – rhyming, vocabulary development, & adj.
- The Cat in the Hat by Dr. Seuss
- There’s a Wocket in my Pocket
- Hop and Pop

Mathematics/Numbers

- Parts of a Whole by Janet Reed
- The Lifesize Animal Counting Book (M)
- My Love for You by Susan L. Roth (M)
- 1, 2, 3 by Tana Hoban (M)
- One Lighthouse One Moon by Anita Lobel (M)
- Green Cat by Dayal Kaur Khalsa (M)
- Go, Dog. Go! by P.D. Eastman (M)
- Five Little Monkeys Play Hide-&-Seek By Eileen Christelow – questions, rhyming, & pronoun
- Mimi’s Book of Counting
- How Many Elephants? By Shelby Beeler
- Ten, Nine, Eight by Molly Bang
- 1, 2, 3 How Many Animals Can You See by Emilie Boon
- Mouse Numbers and Letters
- One Hungry Monster by Susan Heyboer O’Keefe

Colors

- Little Red Hen by Alan Garner (M)
- Shapes a Random House Book (M)
- Apples and Pumpkins by Anne Rockwell (M)
- Peek-a-Zoo by Marie Torres Cimarusti (M)
- Ballerina by Peter Sis (M)
- Color Dance by Ann Jonas (M)
- Finding Red, Finding Yellow by Betsy Imershein (M)
- One Lighthouse One Moon by Anita Lobel (M)
- Go, Dog. Go! by P.D. Eastman (M)
- Short and Tall: An animal opposites book by Nathan Olson

Animals

- The Lifesize Animal Counting Book (M)
- My Love for You by Susan L. Roth (M)
- Peek-a-Zoo by Marie Torres Cimarusti (M)
- Baby Danced the Polka by Karen Beaumont (M)
- Bark George by Jules Feiffer (M)
- The Whole Night Through by David Frampton (M)
- Any Kind of Dog by Lynn Reiser (M)
- Mister Momboo's Hat by Ralph Loomis (M)
- I Took My Frog to the Library by Eric A. Kimmel (M)
- One Bear, One Dog by Paul Stickland (M)
- Short and Tall: An animal opposites book by Nathan Olson

Picture Matches Text

- Moo, Cow by Salina Yoon (M)
- Dog and Cat by Lynn Reiser (M)
- The Little Farm by Lois Lenski (M)
- My Love for You by Susan L. Roth (M)
- The Bear Went Over the Mountain by Rosemary Wells (M)
- Plumply, Dumpy Pumpkin by Mary Serfozo (M)
- Peek-a-Zoo by Marie Torres Cimarusti (M)
- Mrs. McNosh Hangs Up Her Wash by Sarah Weeks (M)
- Baby Danced the Polka by Karen Beaumont (M)
- Busy, Busy Mouse by Virgian Kroll (M)
- Bark George by Jules Feiffer (M)
- The Strongest One of All by Mirra Ginsburg (M)
- Rude Mule by Pamela Duncan Edwards (M)
- No No, Jo! by Kate and Jim McMullan (M)
- A Porcupine Named Fluffy by Helen Lester (M)
- The Whole Night Through by David Frampton (M)
- Good Morning, Sun! by Harriet Ziefert (M)
- Any Kind of Dog by Lynn Reiser (M)
- Mister Momboo's Hat by Ralph Loomis (M)
- Love Me, Love You by Susan Heyboer O'Keefe (M)
- Color Dance by Ann Jonas (M)

- One Lighthouse One Moon by Anita Lobel (M)
- Squash Pie by Wilson Gage (M)
- Snow Day by Barbara M. Joose (M)
- Big and Little by Ruth Krauss (M)

Follows a Sequence

- Moo, Cow by Salina Yoon (M)
- The Little Farm by Lois Lenski (M)
- Baby Danced the Polka by Karen Beaumont (M)
- Busy, Busy Mouse by Virginia Kroll (M)
- Squash Pie by Wilson Gage (M)
- Kevin Takes a Trip by Slegers, Liesbet (M)
- Ready, Set, GO! by John Stadler (M)
- One Bear, One Dog by Paul Stickland (M)

Descriptive Words

- Dog and Cat by Lynn Reiser (M)
- Shiny Seaside by Stephens (M)
- My Love for You by Susan L. Roth (M)
- Plumply, Dumply Pumpkin by Mary Serfozo (M)
- Dog Tales by Janet McLean (M)
- Green Cat by Dayal Kaur Khalsa (M)
- Go, Dog. Go! by P.D. Eastman (M)
- Just us Women - vocabulary
- The Blue Ribbon Puppies by Johnson, Crockett
- There's a Hole in the Bucket by Nadine Bernard
- Cuddle by Beth Shoshan and Jacqueline East

Concepts

- Laundry – Mrs. McNosh Hangs Up Her Wash by Sarah Weeks (M)
- Beach – Shiny Seaside by Stephens (M)
- Farm – Baby Danced the Polka by Karen Beaumont (M)
- Shoes – One Lighthouse One Moon by Anita Lobel (M)
- Tactile/Sensation – A Porcupine Named Fluffy by Helen Lester (M)
- Size/Color/Shape/Texture – The Life-size Animal Opposites Book by Lee Davis
- House – Things in my House by Joe Kaufman
- Spatial
 - Frog and Toad Together by Arnold Cobel
 - Where is Baby's Belly Button by Karen Katz
 - Faster, Slower, Higher, Lower by Micheal Berenstein
 - Over, Under, and Through by Tana Hoban
 - Where Do Bears Sleep?
 - We're Going on a Bear Hunt by Michael Rosew
- Size – A Day at the Zoo by Disney Babies
- Minerva Louise and the Red Truck by Janet Moyan Stoeke (M)

Shapes

- Shapes a Random House Book (M)
- Circles, Triangles, and Squares by Tana Hoban (M)

- A Piece of Red Paper by Sara Stein (M)

Foods

- Apples and Pumpkins by Anne Rockwell (M)
- Plumply, Dumply Pumpkin by Mary Serfozo (M)
- A Piece of Red Paper by Sara Stein (M)

Seasons

- Apples and Pumpkins by Anne Rockwell (M)
- One Lighthouse One Moon by Anita Lobel (M)

Alliteration

- The Lifesize Animal Counting Book (M)
- The Accidental Zucchini by Max Grover (M)

Commands/Requests

- Bark George by Jules Feiffer (M)
- If You Give a Moose a Muffin by Laure Joffe Numeroff

Body Parts

- Dog Tales by Janet McLean (M)
- Eyes, Nose, Fingers, and Toes by Judy Hindley
- Head to Toe by Eric Carle

Exclamatory Sentences

- Soap and Suds by Diane Paterson

Greetings

- Byebye, Daddy! by Ziefert and Ernst

Symbolic Play

- A Piece of Red Paper by Sara Stein (M)

Following Directions

- Teddy Bear, Teddy Bear by Steve Scott (M)

Sounds

- The Country Noisy Book

Similies and Metaphors

- My Mom by Anthony Browne

Opposites

- Paddington's Opposites by Michael Bond
- Short and Tall: An animal opposites book by Nathan Olson

Contractions

- I'm Not Cute! by Jonathon Allen

Temporal Functions

- We're Going on a Bear Hunt by Michael Rosew