

50 New Zealand Picture Books to Share With Your Preschooler.

The books in this selection are currently in print.

Annie and Moon by Miriam Smith, illustrated by Lesley Moyes. Mallinson Rendel, (Pb) 0908783485.

A warm story of a little girl who gently reassures her cat each time she and her mother move home. Annie understands Moon's apprehension in unfamiliar environments only too well, but even a permanent home still takes some getting used to. Lesley Moyes' illustrations capture the emotions of the characters in a variety of chaotic homely settings very skillfully. AIM Picture Book of the Year, 1990.

Apple Banana Cherry by Joy Cowley, illustrated by Elizabeth Fuller. Scholastic, (Hb) 1869434609, (Pb) 1869434676.

Funny catchy rhymes with bold amusing illustrations make this an ABC to read again and again.

At the Beach by Gwenda Turner. Penguin, (Pb) 0140559752.

Gwenda Turner carefully records the industrious and exuberant actions of young children delighting in their explorations at the beach. Children just experiencing visits to the beach will recognize many of the activities here.

The Best-Dressed Bear by Diana Noonan, illustrated by Elizabeth Fuller. Scholastic, (Pb) 1869435338.

Tim is rather perturbed when his favourite clothes no longer fit him and his mother wants to give them away. He knows who they will fit. This very satisfying story about a situation all children encounter is a companion to The Best-Loved Bear.

Can You Keep a Secret? by Pamela Allen. Viking, (Hb) 0670844055.

The king has lost his crown and a very bemused boy is searching among various animals for it. Children soon discover that they know who has the crown in this deceptively simple hide-and seek story, but can they keep the secret?

The Cheese Trap by Joy Cowley, illustrated by Linda McClelland. Scholastic, (Pb) 1869433181.

Very, very carefully two little mice go searching for cheese, but the crafty old cat sets her own ingenious trap to catch them. Linda McClelland's amusing illustrations extend the rhyming text. AIM Picture Book of the Year 1996. Russell Clark Award, 1996.

Chicken Licken by Gavin Bishop. Scholastic, (Pb) 1869434633. Gavin Bishop has used a South Island landscape setting for this traditional story of the chicken that went to tell the king that the sky was falling.

Storylines CLFNZ Early Childhood Sub-Committee - May 2003

The Christmas Caravan by Jennifer Beck, illustrated by Robyn Belton. Scholastic, (Hb) 1869435575

Simon's mum couldn't afford the expensive lights needed to enter the Christmas competition for the best decorated house, so he decided they would make their very own decorations for their caravan. A small boy's determination and ingenuity is captured in meticulous detail by Robyn Belton's warmly tinted watercolours that also affirm our summer celebration.

Daniel's Dinosaurs by Mary Carmine, illustrated by Martin Baynton. Scholastic, (Pb) 1869433289.

Daniel is so passionate about dinosaurs that he can see them all around, and then he visits the aquarium ...

Martin Baynton has used coloured pencils very skillfully to record all the dinosaurs in Daniel's neighbourhood.

Down the Dragon's Tongue by Margaret Mahy, illustrated by Patricia McCarthy. HarperCollins, (Pb) 0732270529.

Harry and Miranda really enjoy sliding down the giant slide, but their father isn't too sure that he can manage it.

Patricia McCarthy's sunny illustrations capture the joys of whooshing and slooshing down a gigantic playground slide.

A Dragon in a Wagon by Lynley Dodd. Mallinson Rendel, (Hb) 0908606532, Penguin, (Pb) 0140540857.

A little girl with a vivid imagination dreams of exciting adventures as she takes her dog for a walk - perhaps she has a dragon in a wagon or a moose on the loose - but her loving dog is irreplaceable.

Duck Walk by Joy Cowley, illustrated by Jennifer Cooper. Scholastic, (Pb) 1869435354.

Little duckling gets diverted when on a walk with all the other ducks and is very nearly in serious trouble. The short rhyming text holds the tension of this story and the lovely golden illustrations are reminiscent of a summer's day.

Duckat by Gaelyn Gordon, illustrated by Chris Gaskin. Scholastic, (Pb) 186943384X.

When Mabel opens her back door she soon discovers that the duck standing there really thinks it is a cat. Young children delight in the absurdities as Mabel tries to teach it how to behave like a duck.

Fancy That! by Pamela Allen. Penguin, (Pb) 0140509712

The little red hen who sat on a nest in the little red shed at the bottom of the garden has a wonderful surprise for all the other hens and the rooster too. This simple story with its clear illustrations is great fun to share with the youngest children.

Find Me a Tiger by Lynley Dodd. Penguin, (Pb) 0140544836

Rhyming text encourages children to look closely at the illustrations and discover the camouflaged wildlife here.

Grandma McGarvey by Jenny Hessel, illustrated by Trevor Pye. Scholastic, (Pb) 1869431111

The amusing rhyming tale of Grandma McGarvey and the immense pile of junk she collects to take to the dump is aptly matched by Trevor Pye's lively illustrations. This is the first in a series of Grandma's astonishing adventures.

Grandpa's Slippers by Joy Watson, illustrated by Wendy Hodder. Scholastic, (Pb) 0908643675.

Grandpa refuses to wear his new slippers, he'd rather wear the old favourite ones but Grandma keeps on trying to throw them out. One of three warm, funny stories about Grandpa and his favourite clothes. Gaelyn Gordon Award for a Best-Loved Book, 2000.

The Great White Man Eating Shark by Margaret Mahy, illustrated by Jonathan Allen. Penguin, 0140554246.

Norvin is a great actor who makes a wonderful shark, scaring all the swimmers out of the bay so that he can have it all to himself. And then one day a real shark appears in the bay ... Scary, but very funny too.

Hairy Maclary From Donaldson's Dairy by Lynley Dodd. Mallinson Rendel, (Hb) 0908606206, (Board) 090878340X, Penguin, (Pb) 0140505318.

This lively cumulative tale of an inquisitive dog and his motley friends who are confronted by the toughest tom in town has become an outstanding favourite of very young children. Even Under 2s delight in joining in to repeat the catchy verse and yowling cat noises. Picture Book of the Year, 1984.

Inside Mary Elizabeth's House by Pamela Allen. Viking, (Hb) 0670891339; Puffin, (Pb) 0140567119.

Is there really a monster inside Mary Elizabeth's house? The boys don't believe her until she invites them home for dinner. A scary book that is fun to read aloud.

The Kuia and the Spider by Patricia Grace, illustrated by Robyn Kahukiwa. Penguin, (Pb) 0140503870.

An old woman and a spider argue about their weaving, but their grandchildren are not in the least interested in deciding which weaving is best. For them, it is perfect.

The Lighthouse Keeper's Lunch by Ronda & David Armitage. Scholastic, (Pb) 590551752.

Poor old Mr Grinling, the hungry seagulls keep stealing the delicious lunch which Mrs Grinling sends down by wire from their house on the cliff each day. They even try sending Hamish the cat in a basket, but that doesn't work and Mrs Grinling finally comes up with a very cunning plan. The first in a series about the adventures of this indefatigable couple. Esther Glen Award, 1978.

A Lion in the Meadow by Margaret Mahy, illustrated by Jenny Williams. Penguin, (Pb) 0140506306.

The little boy is quite sure there is a lion in the meadow so his mother gives him a dragon in a matchbox to scare it off. This wonderful story celebrating a child's imagination was awarded the Esther Glen Award, 1970.

A Lion in the Night by Pamela Allen. Penguin, (Pb) 0140509399.
The moon is up when the lion steals the crying baby from the palace, but the baby thinks the adventure is great fun as all the inhabitants join in a merry chase, and all ends well in this lively book. Russell Clark Award, 1986

Little Rabbit and the Sea by Gavin Bishop. North South/Scholastic, (Hb) 1558588094, (Pb) 0735813124.
Little Rabbit longed to know about the sea and when a seagull dropped a seashell especially for him he discovered it was exactly as everyone had told him.

The Little Yellow Digger by Betty & Alan Gilderdale. Scholastic, (Hb) 1869431219, (Pb) 1869432126.
This story of how the little yellow digger helped pull out all the bigger diggers that were stuck in the mud has become an overwhelming favourite with preschool children. Gaelyn Gordon Award for a Best-Loved Book, 2003.

Mr McGee and the Biting Flea by Pamela Allen. Penguin, 0140564195.
'OOOOOO! OWWWWW! EEEEEEE!' Mr McGee gradually discards all his clothing and leaps into the sea to escape the discomfort of an irritating flea. Children delight in this 'rude' book – choose one of the other lively stories about Mr McGee if the nudity here offends you.

Mrs Wishy Washy by Joy Cowley, illustrated by Elizabeth Fuller. Shortland, (Pb)
Small children delight in this simple story of a washerwoman who officiously bathes the farm animals.

My Brown Bear Barney by Dorothy Butler, illustrated by Elizabeth Fuller. Reed, 1869480430.
Wherever the little girl goes, Brown Bear Barney goes too. A reassuring story of warm family life with illustrations that catalogue all the familiar accoutrements of a small child's every day activities. The first in a series of this small girl and her beloved bear.

My Cat likes to Hide in Boxes by Eve Sutton, illustrated by Lynley Dodd. Mallinson Rendel, (Hb) 0908606273, Penguin (Pb) 0140502424.
The cat from France can sing and dance, the cat from Spain can fly an aeroplane but my cat likes to hide in boxes. This book, written by her cousin, was the first picture book illustrated by Lynley Dodd. Esther Glen Award, 1975.

My Maori Colours. Oku Tae Maori by Tracy Duncan. Reed, (Pb) 1969487761.
A simple introduction to colours in New Zealand wildlife with large clear text in both English and Maori.

Nanny Mihi's Garden by Melanie Drewery, illustrated by Tracy Duncan. Reed, (Pb) 1869487648.
Nanny Mihi's children not only help her plant her garden in the holidays, but help her as the crops are harvested for use throughout the year.

Nicketty-Nacketty-Noo-Noo-Noo by Joy Cowley, illustrated by Tracey Moroney. Scholastic, (Pb) 1869433602.
A little woman in an apron of blue outwits an ogre with her pot of glue.

The Nickle Nackle Tree by Lynley Dodd. Mallinson Rendel, (Pb) 0908783191.
The Nickle Nackle tree becomes steadily packed with an amazing array of extraordinary birds, until finally there are just too many for its slender branches to support. A zany counting book that has delighted a generation of children.

Oliver in the Garden by Margaret Beames, illustrated by Sue Hitchcock. Scholastic, (Hb) 1869434468, (Pb) 1869434468.
Oliver the cat meets all sorts of interesting things as he explores the garden one dark wet windy night. Sue Hitchcock's computer generated illustrations capture the ambience of a mysterious, yet familiar, world. New Zealand Post Picture Book of the Year, 2001. New Zealand Post Children's Choice, 2001.

One Lonely Kakapo by Sandra Morris. Reed, (Pb) 1869488288.
New Zealand wildlife features in this counting book which won the 1992 Russell Clark Award.

Over on the Farm by Gwenda Turner. Penguin, (Pb) 0143519670.
'Over on the farm in the summer sun Lived an old mother cow and her little calf one. . .' begins this New Zealand version of a counting book which features farm animals with its familiar rhymes.

A Pukeko in a Ponga Tree by Kingi Ihaka, illustrated by Dick Frizzell. Reed, (Hb) 1869480600, (Pb) 1869487060.
A very New Zealand version of the Twelve Days of Christmas featuring kumara, flax kits, huhu grubs, pipi and puha.

Scarface Claw by Lynley Dodd. Mallinson Rendel, (Hb) 0908783620, Penguin (Pb) 0140568867
Scarface Claw is not afraid of anything at all . . . or is he? The toughest tom in town stars in his very own book.

Sione's Talo by Lino Nelisi., illustrated by Elspeth Williamson. Scholastic, (Pb) 1869431448.
No matter how hard Sione pulls, the huge talo will not come out of the ground. A Pacific Island version of a well-loved traditional English tale.

Slinky Malinky by Lynley Dodd. Mallinson Rendel, (Hb) 0908606664, (Board) 090878341X, (Pb) 0140544399.
' . . . Slinky Malinky was blacker than black, a stalking and lurking adventurous cat . . .' The first of a series about a mischievous cat.

A Summery Saturday Morning by Margaret Mahy, illustrated by Selina Young. Penguin, (Pb) 014056327X.
A family walk down the hills to the beach turns into a wild romp when two bad dogs chase everything in sight until they are in a confrontation with a family of geese. Margaret Mahy's infectious

rhyme and Selina Young's stunning double paged spreads meld just perfectly here. New Zealand Post Picture Book of the Year, 1999

Sydney and the Sea Monster by David Elliot. Random House, (Hb) 1869414071, (Pb) 1869414322.
Long, long ago when sealers sailed southern oceans with harpoons and clubs, an inquisitive penguin inventor nearly brings disaster to his icy community. Sydney, the penguin, enlists the help of a friendly whale in his ingenious plan to thwart the boat load of hunters.

Taniwha by Robyn Kahukiwa. Penguin, (Pb) 0140505989.
A little boy is transported by the taniwha that lives in his river to collect the treasures that he shares with his koro. Russell Clark Award 1987, New Zealand Children's Picture Book of the Year, 1987.

Tane Steals the Show by Lino Nelisi, illustrated by Gus Hunter. Scholastic, (Pb) 186943336X.
A small boy keeps being told that he is too little to join in the performances at his Uncle Kokela's wedding. But Tane diligently practices his singing and dancing to surprise everyone. A celebration of Pacific Island ceremony.

Waddle Giddle Gargle by Pamela Allen. Penguin, (Pb) 0140559914.
Grandpa, Grandma and Jonathan pass a tall gum tree every day, but when the magpie lays eggs in her nest she begins to swoop upon all passersby. The three come up with ingenious contraptions to thwart the magpie's attacks.

Wake Up, Bear by Lynley Dodd. Mallinson Rendel, (Hb) 0908606427, Penguin, (Pb) 0140507906.
Spring has arrived, Bear simply sleeps on. What can his friends do to wake him?

Who Sank the Boat? by Pamela Allen. Penguin, (Pb) 0140509402.
One by one, a cow, a donkey, a sheep, and a little mouse climb aboard a boat to go for a row in the bay. Just who did sink the boat?

Who's Wild and Free? by Terry Fitzgibbon. Penguin, (Pb) 0140566619.
This lift the flap book with its simple rhyming text is a good introduction to New Zealand wildlife

The Witch in the Cherry Tree by Margaret Mahy, illustrated by Jenny Williams. Penguin, (Pb) 0140554262.
David, who is helping his mother with her baking, outwits the witch in their garden who is doing her utmost to persuade him to share their cakes. The small boy faces the threat in his garden with equanimity.

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