

Resources for Caregivers: Book Recommendations

These web sites and books include lists and recommendations that are terrific places to start when looking for fun, enriching, juicy reading material:

We Need Diverse Books

This respected nonprofit promotes literature that reflects and honors the lives of all young people. <https://diversebooks.org/resources-old/where-to-find-diverse-books/>

Here Wee Read

Book lists and reviews to help cultivate a love a shared reading. <http://hereweeread.com/>

Diversity and Inclusion in Literature and Beyond

These fantastic lists from the Children’s Book Council include collections and recommendations for Diverse Books, Anti-Racist Resources, Strong Women, and Hispanic & Latino Resources. <https://www.cbcbooks.org/readers/reader-resources/inclusivity-resources/>

A Mighty Girl

This robust site is billed as “the world’s largest collection of books, toys and movies for smart, confident, and courageous girls.” <https://www.amightygirl.com/books>

Brightly—“Raise Kids Who Love to Read”

Brightly is a resource to help parents and educators grow a love of books and reading via book recommendations, tips and advice, and story time videos. <https://www.readbrightly.com/>

Read in Color

This list of suggested books, recommended by Little Free Library’s Diverse Books Advisory Group and others, amplifies diverse voices for readers of all ages. <https://littlefreelibrary.org/read-in-color-recommended-reading/>

Pragmatic Mom

This blog offers book lists and other posts with a quirky, honest, diverse spin. <https://www.pragmaticmom.com/>

Common Sense Media

With both editor reviews and crowd sourced reader reviews, this helpful site gives summaries and information about books, movies, and more, to help you decide what content is OK for your kids. A search function allows you to filter reviews by your child’s age, topic, or favorite genres. <https://www.common sense media.org/>

Scholastic Parents

Book lists by age and type, tips for reluctant readers, fun reading-related activities, and more. <https://www.scholastic.com/parents/home.html>

Happy You, Happy Family

This blog has a refreshing list of the best picture books, based on kids’ and parents’ opinions. <https://happyyouhappyfamily.com/best-picture-books/>

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Beyond the Bookends

This blog about inspiring a love of reading in children includes an extensive but digestible series of posts about the importance of reading and helpful reading readiness tips.

<https://www.beyondthebookends.com/importance-of-reading-and-reading-readiness/>

Goodreads and kids' versions like Bookopolis

Social reading site for readers and book recommendations where you can track what you've read, want to read, and what your friends are reading. The more you use the site, the more it can tailor recommendations to your tastes. <https://www.goodreads.com/> <https://www.bookopolis.com/#/>

NYPL 100 Books for Reading and Sharing

The New York Public Library issues this excellent list of 100 outstanding titles for kids annually.

<https://www.nypl.org/books-more/recommendations/best-books/kids>

I Love Libraries

This initiative of the American Library Association includes reading lists, winners of the ALA Youth Media Awards (Newbery, Caldecott, Sibert, etc.), ideas for starting a book club, and more.

<http://www.ilovelibraries.org/booklovers>

Bank Street College of Education

Themed book lists and recommendations; especially valuable is their Best Children's Books of the Year list, organized by age. <https://www.bankstreet.edu/library/literature-resources/book-recommendations/>

Nonfiction Detectives

Two intrepid librarians review the best nonfiction books for children. <http://www.nonfictiondetectives.com/>

Read-Aloud Revival

Geared to homeschoolers, Read-Aloud Revival is a podcast and website that helps nurture warm family relationships while raising kids who love to read. Smart, savvy founder and homeschooler mama Sarah Mackenzie provides lists, recommendations, advice, and community.

<https://readaloudrevival.com/>

👉 Also consult librarians, teachers, booksellers, and bookstore/library displays for recommendations, and inquire about what your kids' peers are enjoying!

Books that include recommendations:

How to Raise a Reader by Pamela Paul and Maria Russo, editors of The NYT Book Review, is a warm, accessible resource that reminds us that while it's terrific if we can support our kids while they're learning to read, our most important job as caregivers is to help them learn to love reading. Offers guidance from birth to teens, including book and series recommendations.

The Read-Aloud Handbook by Jim Trelease is half information about why reading aloud rocks, and half list of read-aloud suggestions for ages 0-15.

Reading in the Wild by Donalyn Miller includes a list of her older elementary students' favorite books.

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