

## Picture Books—Starting Your Child’s Library: The First 100 Books 😊

Below is the key to the format of each entry. I’ve covered mostly Picture Books here because most board books for babies are good. I’ve included a few here that you may not have heard of.

Title  
Author  
Publisher  
Age  
Topic

Also, there are some authors that you can always trust and are always a good choice for your kids’ library such as Eric Carle, Dr. Seuss, Eric Hill, Tomie dePaola, and the Berenstains. I hope to share from other writers that you may not be as familiar with that will entertain, inspire, and bless your children. My criteria for choosing a book for this list is:

1. I’ve read the book.
2. It is a Christian, Bible-based book or does not contradict the Bible
3. They either inspire, teach, entertain, or bless children
4. Illustrations as well as the writing are excellent
5. Does not promote New Age ideals

### A Few Board Books

*Freight Train Board Book*  
Donald Crews  
Greenwillow Books  
0-3 years  
Colors, train

*Loved: The Lord’s Prayer*  
Sally Lloyd-Jones  
Zonderkidz  
0-4 years  
Lord’s prayer, God’s love

*Giraffes Can’t Dance*  
Giles Andreae  
Cartwheel Books  
4 years and up  
Humor, self-acceptance, dance

*Sleepy Time Colors*  
Deb Gruelle  
Zonderkidz  
1-4 years  
Nighttime, colors, lift-the-flaps book

*I Love You Forever*  
Robert Munsch  
Firefly Books  
4-6 years  
Love, family

*Ten Little Night Stars*  
Deb Gruelle  
Zonderkidz  
1-4 years old  
Nighttime routine and counting

*Why?*  
Laura Vaccaro Seeger  
Neal Porter Books  
3-7 years  
Questions, asking why

## Picture Books

*A Is for Abigail: An almanac of Amazing American Women*

Lynne Cheney  
Simon & Schuster/Paula Wiseman Books  
6-12 years  
Women in history, alphabet book

*Alexander and the Magic Mouse*

Martha Sanders  
American Heritage Press  
5-10 years  
Helping, acceptance, differences, prejudice

*Bad Seed, The*

Jory John  
HarperCollins  
5-8 years  
Attitude, behavior choices, reactions

*Bo Bandicoot at the Market*

Steve and Marion Isham  
Bandicoot Books  
3-8 years  
Alphabet book, Australian animals, musical instruments, seek and find pictures

*Can't You Sleep, Little Bear?*

Martin Waddell  
Candlewick  
3-7 years  
Facing fear, bedtime

*Carnivores*

Aaron Reynolds  
Chronicle Books  
5-8 years  
Self-acceptance, hurt feelings, vegetarianism

*Chef-a-rella*

Marie Agerton  
CreateSpace Independent Publishing Platform  
5-8 years  
Being who you were created to be, encouragement

*Chickens Aren't the Only Ones* (World of Nature Series)

Ruth Heller  
Puffin Books  
5-8 years  
Animals that lay eggs

*Cool Bean, The*

Jory John  
HarperCollins  
4-8 years  
Friendship, self-confidence, helping others

*Crippled Lamb, The*

Max Lucado with Jenna, Andrea, and Sara Lucado  
Thomas Nelson  
3-7 years  
Jesus' birth, God's plan for each person, outcast, friendship, encouragement

*Day You Begin, The*

Jacqueline Woodson  
Nancy Paulsen Books  
5-8 years  
Celebrating differences, friendship, bravery

*Dot, The*

Peter H. Reynolds  
Candlewick Press  
5-8 years  
Creativity, trying new things, encouragement

*Dragons Love Tacos*

Adam Rubin and Daniel Salieri  
Dial Books  
3-7 years  
Silliness, dragons, tacos, helping

*Extra Yarn*

Mac Barnett  
Balzer + Bray  
4-8 years  
Kindness, generosity

*Fancy Nancy*  
Jane O'Connor  
HarperCollins  
4-8 years  
Love, family, vocabulary

*Finding Winnie*  
Lindsay Mattick  
Little, Brown Books for Young Readers  
4-8 years  
Bears, the bear that inspired Winnie-the-Pooh, Harry Colebourn, Christopher Robin

*Garden, the Curtain, and the Cross, The*  
(Tales that Tell the Truth)  
Carl Laferton  
The Good Book Company  
4-8 years  
Gospel, Easter story

*God Gave Us You*  
Lisa Tawn Bergren  
WaterBrook Press  
3-7 years  
Family, bedtime story, thankful for child

*God Made Me Unique: Helping Children*  
*See Value in Every Person*  
Joni and Friends  
New Growth Press  
4-8 years  
Special needs, church

*God Made Boys and Girls: Helping*  
*Children Understand the Gift of Gender*  
Marty Machowski  
New Growth Press  
4-8 years  
Gender, stereotypes, God's plan

*God's Very Good Idea*  
Trillia Newbell  
The Good Book Company  
4-8 years  
Loving others, differences, Gospel

*Goldilocks and the Three Dinosaurs*  
Mo Willems  
Balzer + Bray  
4-8 years  
Silliness, obedience, wisdom, listening

*Good Good Father*  
Chris Tomlin  
Thomas Nelson  
4-8 years  
God's character, God's love, relationship with God

*Grandfather's Journey*  
Allen Say  
Sandpiper  
4-8 years  
Immigration, family, Japan, generations, third culture kids

*Gruffalo, The*  
Julia Donaldson  
Puffin Books  
3-7 years  
Humor, trickster tale, wisdom (lying to save his life)

*Grumpy Monkey*  
Suzanne Lang  
Random House Books  
3-7 years  
Humor, feelings, friendship

*Halfway Herbert*  
Francis Chan  
David C. Cook  
4-8 years  
Doing our best, loving God with all our hearts, telling the truth

*Harold and the Purple Crayon*  
Crockett Johnson  
HarperCollins  
4-8 years  
Imagination, play, fantasy

*Harry the Dirty Dog*

Gene Zion  
HarperCollins  
4-8 years  
Pets, baths

*Hello Lighthouse*

Sophie Blackall  
Little, Brown Books for Young Readers  
4-8 years  
Ocean, lighthouse, seasons, family

*How Big Was Goliath? (Answers to a Child's First Bible Questions)*

Betsy Rosen Elliot  
The Standard Publishing Company  
4-10 years  
Bible, Old Testament, Questions and Answers

*How My Parents Learned to Eat*

Ina R. Friedman  
HMH Books for Young Readers  
4-7 years  
Cultural differences, mixed-culture families

*I Can Talk to God*

Mona Hodgson  
Independently published  
2-5 years  
Prayer, Bible heroes

*I Forgive You: Love We can Hear Ask For, and Give*

Nicole Lataif  
Pauline Books & Media  
4-7 years  
Forgiveness, love

*I Hate English*

Ellen Levine  
Scholastic Paperbacks  
4-8 years  
Learning new languages, immigration, new school, Third Culture Kids, being bilingual

*I Have a Sister—My Sister Is Deaf*

Jeanne Whitehouse Peterson  
HarperCollins  
4-8 years  
Family, deafness, kindness

*I'm Sticking with You*

Smriti Prasadam  
Henry Holt and Co.  
4-8 years  
Friendship

*It Is (Not) Perfect*

Anna Kang  
Two Lions  
3-7 years  
Contentment, friendship, perfectionism

*It Will Be Okay: Trusting God through Fear and Change* (Little Seed and Little Fox)

Lysa TerKeurst  
Thomas Nelson  
4-8 years  
Fear, trusting God, friendship, change

*Just a Minute!*

Teddy Slater  
Cartwheel Books  
4 years and up  
Math, time, responsibilities, busyness

*Just Ask*

Sonia Sotomayor  
Philomel Books  
4-8 years  
Differences, special needs kids

*Just in Case You Ever Wonder*

Max Lucado  
Thomas Nelson  
3-7 years  
Parents' love, God's love, heaven

*Kitty Cat, Kitty Cat, Are You Waking Up?*

Bill Martin Jr. and Michael Sampson

Two Lions

3-5 years

Morning routine, waking up

*Lacey Walker, Non-Stop Talker*

Christiane C. Jones

Picture Window Books

4-6 years

Listening

*Legend of the Cypress Tree, The*

Adam Gellert

Cypress River Publishing

5-12 years

Salvation, moving to a new home, God's plan, anxiety, faith

*Library Lion*

Michelle Knudsen

Candlewick

4-8 years

Libraries, books, rules, helping others

*Little Blue Bottle, A*

Jennifer Grant

Church Publishing

5-12 years

Grief, loss

*Madeline*

Ludwig Bemelmans

Puffin Books

3-7 years

Bravery, positive attitude

*Magical Christmas Horse, The*

Mary Higgins Clark

Simon & Schuster/Paula Wiseman Books

4-8 years

Christmas, family, memories, Christmas wishes

*Mama Had a Dancing Heart*

Libba Gray

Scholastic Inc.

4-8 years

Dance, mother/daughter relationship, seasons, joy

*Maybe God Is Like That Too*

Jennifer Grant

Beaming Books

5-8 years

Fruit of the Spirit, What God is like

*Maybe I Can Love My Neighbor Too*

Jennifer Grant

Beaming Books

5-8 years

Love your neighbor

*Mighty, Mighty Construction Site*

Sherri Duskey Rinker

Chronicle Books

3-6 years

Trucks, teamwork, counting, hard work

*Miss Rumphius*

Barbara Cooney

Puffin Books

5-8 years

Travel, making the world a better place, nature

*Mitten, The*

Jan Brett

G. P. Putnam's Sons Books for Young Readers

3-5 years

Animals, winter, folktale

*Mixed: A Colorful Story*

Arree Chung

Macmillan

3-8 years

Prejudice, racism

*Mommy Doesn't Know My Name*  
Suzanne Williams  
Sandpiper  
5-6 years  
Endearing names we call family, humor

*Most Magnificent Thing, The*  
Ashley Spires  
Kids Can Press  
3-7 years  
Creativity, not giving up

*Mouse Paint*  
Ellen Stoll Walsh  
HMH Books for Young Readers  
0-3 years  
Colors, mixing colors, mice

*My Breakfast with Jesus: Worshipping God  
Around the World*  
Tina Cho  
Harvest House Publishers  
4-8 years  
Inspired by John 21, culture, traditions,  
worship, service, loving others

*My First Book of Sign Language*  
Joan Holub  
Scholastic Inc.  
4 years and up  
Signing, finger-spelling, alphabet book

*My Nana and Me*  
Irene Smalls  
Xist Publishing  
4-8 years  
Grandmother and granddaughter  
relationship, fun with grandma,  
encouragement, daily activities

*Name Jar, The*  
Yangsook Choi  
Dragonfly Books  
3-7 years  
Korean, Asian, names, new school

*Night Gardener, The*  
Terry Fan, Eric Fan  
Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers  
4-8 years  
Art, topiaries, community

*Oak inside the Acorn, The*  
Max Lucado  
Thomas Nelson  
6-10 years  
Potential, God's plan and purpose

*Of Thee I Sing: A Letter to My Daughters*  
Barack Obama  
Knopf Books for Young Readers  
5-8 years  
Encouragement, character traits, history

*On a Beam of Light*  
Jennifer Berne  
Chronicle Books  
5-8 years  
Albert Einstein, family love, science,  
biography

*One Wintry Night*  
Ruth Bell Graham  
Thomas Nelson  
4-7 years  
Christmas, Gospel, hospitality

*P Is for Pterodactyl: The Worst Alphabet  
Book Ever*  
Raj Haldar and Chris Carpenter  
Sourcebooks Explore  
4-8 years  
Alphabet book, humor, silent letters

*Piglet Named Mercy, A*  
Kate DiCamillo  
Candlewick Press  
4-8 years  
Adoption, attitudes, prequel for Mercy  
Watson series

*Punctuation Takes a Vacation*

Robin Pulver  
Holiday House  
5-8 years  
Punctuation, humor

*Quinn's Promise Rock*

Christie Thomas  
Harvest House Publishers  
3-7 years  
Fear, family, God is always with us

*Red: A Crayon's Story*

Michael Hall  
Greenwillow Books  
4-8 years  
Self-respect, identity, expectations, labels

*Rooster Who Would Not Be Quiet!, The*

Carmen Agra Deedy  
Scholastic Press  
4-8 years  
Freedom, oppression, allegory

*Rudy and Claude Splash into Art*

Adam McHeffey  
Two Lions  
3-7 years  
Types of art, creativity, trying new things

*Seeds and Trees*

Brandon Walden  
The Treasured Tree  
6-12 years  
The power of words, self-worth

*Signing at Church*

Stan Collins  
Garlic Press  
10 years and up  
Sign language ministry

*Skin You Live In, The*

Michael Tyler  
Chicago Children's Museum  
4-8 years  
Self-acceptance, accepting differences

*Sky Painter, The: Louis Fuertes, Bird Artist*

Margarita Engle  
Two Lions  
6-8 years  
Story of Louis Fuertes, artist, conservation, birds, travel

*Slug Prince, The: A Super Silly Book for Children 3-8*

Martin Dale  
MD Press  
3-8 years  
Silliness, possibly gullibility

*Smile, God Love You*

Mark Restaino  
Indy Pub  
0-6 years  
Emotions, God's love and care, God meets our needs

*Stella and Roy*

Ashley Wolff  
Puffin Unicorn Books  
3-8 years  
Retelling of the Tortoise and the Hare, siblings, race

*Tale of Three Trees, The*

Retold by Angela Elwell Hunt  
David C. Cook  
4-18 years  
Jesus, Easter, folktale, God's purpose

*Tap Tap Boom Boom*

Elizabeth Bluemle  
Candlewick  
3-7 years  
Rain, friendship, helping others, storms

*Ten Magic Butterflies*

Danica McKellar

Crown Books for Young Readers

4-6 years

Fantasy, magic, fairies, gratitude for who you are, math, counting

*Tillie and the Wall*

Leo Lionni

Dragonfly Books

3-7 years

Friendship, creativity

*Very Fairy Princess Takes the Stage, The*

Julie Andrews and Emma Walton Hamilton

Little, Brown Books for Young Readers

4-8 years

Friendship, sharing, humility

*Waiting Is Not Easy!*

Mo Willems

Hyperion Books for Children

6-8 years

Waiting, patience, friendship

*Water Bugs and Dragonflies: Explaining  
Death to Young Children*

Doris Stickney

Pilgrim Press

4 years and up

Death, heaven

*We Don't Eat Our Classmates*

Ryan T. Higgins

Disney Hyperion

3-5 years

First day of school, being kind, not biting people

*When Clay Sings*

Byrd Baylor

Aladdin

4-8 years

History, Native Americans, pottery, art, fossils

*When I Grow Up*

Al Yankovic

HarperCollins

4-8 years

Jobs, careers, dreams, humor

*When I Pray for You*

Matthew Paul Turner

Convergent Books

3-7 years

Prayer, parent/child relationship, parent's prayers

*With You All the Way*

Max Lucado

Crossway

4 years and up

Allegory, Following God, Knowing His Voice, Discipleship

*You Are My Happy*

Hoda Kotb

HarperCollins

4-8 years

Gratitude, happiness, nighttime routine

*You Are Special*

Max Lucado

Crossway

4-7 years

Self-worth, God the Creator, labels

*You Get What You Get* (Little Boost series)

Julie Gassman

Picture Window Books

4-6 years

Gratitude, attitude, temper tantrums, dealing with disappointment

*You Stole My Name*

Dennis McGregor

Dennis McGregor

5-12 years

Animals, humor, animal names



*You're Perfect the Way You Are*

Richard Nelson

Richard Nelson, publisher

2-8 years

Self-image, body image, self-acceptance

*You're the Biggest*

Lucy Tapper

From you to me limited

2-5 years

Becoming a big sister/brother