

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

First Bible Basics

Danielle Hitchen

Harvest House Publishers

0-4 years

Counting, theology

Loved: The Lord’s Prayer

Sally Lloyd-Jones

Zonderkidz

0-4 years

Lord’s prayer, God’s love

Freight Train Board Book

Donald Crews

Greenwillow Books

0-3 years

Colors, train

Sleepy Time Colors

Deb Gruelle

Zonderkidz

1-4 years

Nighttime, colors, lift-the-flaps book

Giraffes Can’t Dance

Giles Andreae

Cartwheel Books

4 years and up

Humor, self-acceptance, dance

Ten Little Night Stars

Deb Gruelle

Zonderkidz

1-4 years old

Nighttime routine and counting

I Love You Forever

Robert Munsch

Firefly Books

4-6 years

Love, family

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

Enemy Pie

Derek Munson
Chronicle Books
4-12 years
Friendship, making friends

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

Jesus and the Very Big Surprise

Randall Goodgame

The Good Book Company

4-8 years

Gospel, Jesus' life

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
Singing, 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

Where Is Wisdom?
Scott James
B&H Kids
4-8 years
Wisdom, Bible, Book of Job

Wherever You Go, I Want You to Know
Melissa B. Kruger
The Good Book Company
3-8 years
Gospel, God's presence, encouragement

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