



# Reading with your child in Nursery



# Simple Tips for Whilst You Read

- Initially, reading with your child is about reading to them. Model clear reading with fluency and expression. Model how to read unknown words.
- Discuss the meaning of words to get your child used to exploring words for themselves.
- Discuss alternative words. For example, 'Which word could the author have used that's a bit more exciting than big?'
- What is happening? Talk about what is happening in the pictures before you read the text. What can you see?
- Make predictions. What do you think will happen next? What makes you think that? If their prediction is way off the mark, model your own and give your reasons.
- Discuss the setting of the story. Have you read another book with the same setting?
- Read a range of different texts - recipe books, nursery rhymes, instruction manuals, leaflets for places you wish to visit, traditional tales.
- Show your child how to find information in a book rather than quickly finding it for them.

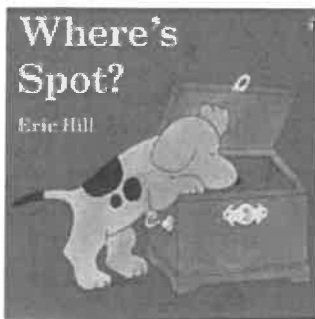


**Suggested  
books to  
share with  
your child...**

# Pie Corbett's Reading Spine

**T**he books that I have chosen are almost all very repetitive and rather like songs! This makes them easier for children to join in with so that the experience of reading becomes interactive and the children begin to learn the story as they are read to. In each book there will be much to discuss so that the children understand the vocabulary as well as what is happening.

All of the books have pictures, which support the text but also compliment and add to it. It is important to discuss the pictures and what is happening in them as much as the text. After a while, the children will get to know each story word for word, which can give great confidence to early readers in terms of fluency when reading.

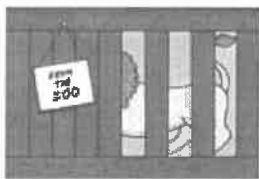


## Where's Spot?

*Eric Hill (Puffin)*

Both this book and *Dear Zoo* work on the same principle of involving the child in the act of reading by using flaps so that the process becomes interactive. Both books can be used to create new versions by hiding a different animal under homemade flaps. Use the game of 'hide and seek' when playing.

## Dear Zoo

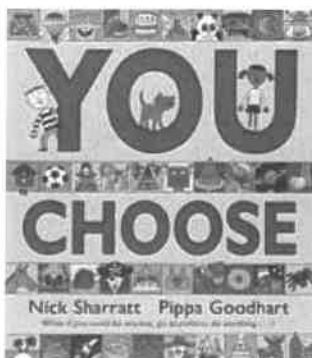


**Rod Campbell**

## Dear Zoo

*Rod Campbell (Puffin)*

This book is a gateway into learning about different animals. The repetition of 'so' will add a new conjunction to a child's repertoire. Discuss the reasons for sending the animals back – *heavy, fragile, tall, dangerous, fierce, grumpy, 'with care', scary, naughty, jumpy and perfect*. Use masks or toys or puppets and involve the children in the story, playing different parts.



## You Choose

*Pippa Goodhart and Nick Sharratt (Random House)*

This classic book is good to share many times, especially working closely with a few children so they can look at the pictures and choose. Invite children to make collections – organising toys or objects into different categories. Play sorting games – by size, colour, shape or type. Use the book many times to choose a main character, a setting, an animal or object. Use these selections then to make up simple stories. The book can be used endlessly for this as the combinations are almost infinite!



**We're Going on a Bear Hunt** READ & RESPOND

Michael Rosen (Walker Books)

Learn the story orally, map it and act it out outside. Ask: *Why does the writer say 'we're not scared' at the very start of the story? Who is scared?* Talk about how everyone feels at different points. Ask: *Was the bear angry or did he just want a friend?* Look at the different places and invent other onomatopoeic phrases (*swishy swashy*). Draw a new map, perhaps of the local area, and create a new version. Act or sing the new version, with costumes or puppets and film it for parents. (See the *Read & Respond* title for further ideas.)



**Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You See?**

Bill Martin Jr and Eric Carle (Windmill Books)

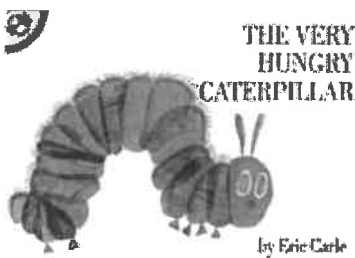
Read, enjoy and let children join in until they know the story. Leave copies around so they can 'play at reading'. Discuss what else the animals might hear, touch, taste or see. Ask: *How do the different colours make you feel? Which is your favourite?* Create a different version of the story for other animals that the children know, such as a cat or dog. Create tissue collages using primary colours or bold paintings of animals. Also, read *Polar Bear, Polar Bear, What Do You Hear?* by the same authors.



**Jasper's Beanstalk**

Nick Butterworth and Mick Inkpen (Hodder)

This story makes a neat precursor to *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* as it shows how to make up a simple story by repeating the days of the week and describing what happens on each day. Ask: *Who is Jasper and what is a beanstalk?* Read this in the Spring when you can grow some beanstalks – and tell the children the slightly scary story of 'Jack and the Beanstalk'. Discuss what happens at the end of this story – and then decide with the children what happens to Jasper at the top of the beanstalk!



**The Very Hungry Caterpillar**

Eric Carle (Puffin)

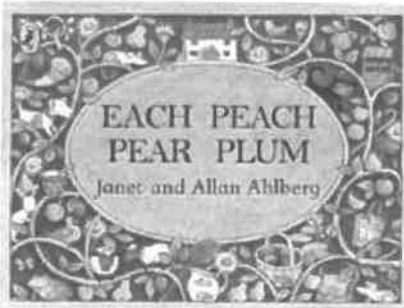
Share until the children know the story well. Ask: *Who is 'Christa'?* Discuss the idea of the author/artist making the book for someone else. Create collages of the moon at night, leaves and trees. Notice the alliteration (*light/ little/ lay/ leaf*) and the introduction of another conjunction 'but'. Ideal for getting a sense of days of the week, different fruit (bring in a selection) and growing! Of course, some of this work might best be done in the spring/summer when you can hatch out butterflies or at least see some outside! Paint huge, vibrant butterflies.



**Hairy Maclary from Donaldson's Dairy**

Lynley Dodd (Puffin)

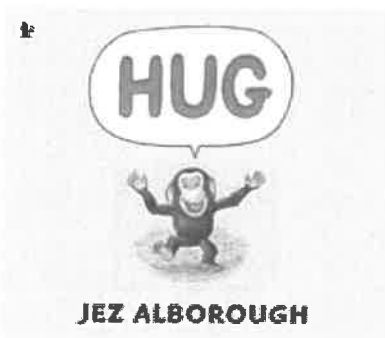
Read this story many times with everyone joining in and savouring the rhymes. Ask: *Which is the favourite dog? Who is the least favourite?* Try inventing other similes instead of 'as big as a horse', for example, 'as big as a car'. Collect and list rhyming words. Play games to hear which words rhyme and which do not. Talk about names that we give pets.



## Each Peach Pear Plum **READ & RESPOND**

Allan and Janet Ahlberg (Puffin)

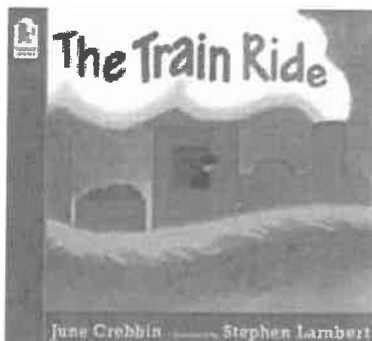
Read together and look carefully at each picture. Tell the class the stories or rhymes behind each of the characters. Make sure that the story books are available for the children to look at. Chant the book together and try inventing a rhythmic clap as a chorus between each page. Provide puppets or costumes and objects from the stories for play. (See the *Read & Respond* title for further ideas.)



## Hug

Jez Alborough (Walker Books)

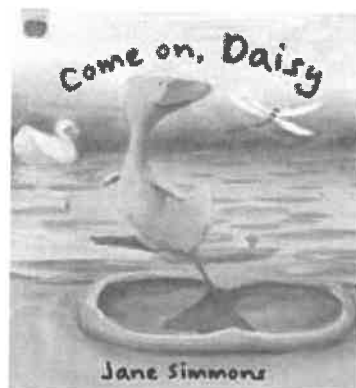
In this book there are of course lots of the different animals to name, but it is also important to let the children tell you how the monkey and the other animals feel and what they might be thinking. Get some sticky notes in the shape of speech bubbles and add in what characters might say or think. Avoid the temptation to tell the children! Make masks and play at the story – use toys or puppets to re-enact. Try making up the whole story with the class, write this up and turn it into a Big Book. The theme of losing a mother also features in *Come on, Daisy!* and in the Reception book *Owl Babies*.



## The Train Ride

June Crebbin (Walker Books)

Ideally, take the children on a train! If not, then use film and toys. Ask: *Who has been on a car or bus journey? Where did you go and what did you see? Who is the lady with the child? What is the town and what is the countryside?* There is plenty to discuss in the story – animals, meadows, hills, farms, tractors, tickets, tunnels, the seaside, lighthouse and sand. Ask: *Why are they travelling to Gran's?* Bring in a mirror so that everyone can see themselves. Make seaside small worlds using sand and water. Change the story and have a child coming from the country into the city and ask: *What would they see?* Lay out a train track.

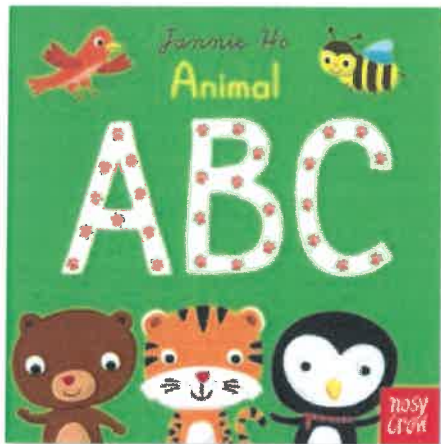


## Come on, Daisy!

Jane Simmons (Orchard Books)

Some children might have noticed by now the question marks in certain book titles and here we are now with an exclamation mark as well! Start with the cover. Ask: *Who is speaking, to whom and what might it mean? What do you think will happen in the story? Why must Daisy stay close?* Talk about: 'I'll try'. Track Daisy's feelings. Emphasise the 'but' construction when reading with children joining in. Ask: *Are the dangers real? What is the book about? What is it telling us to do when we go out with Mum or Dad?*

# Age 0-3



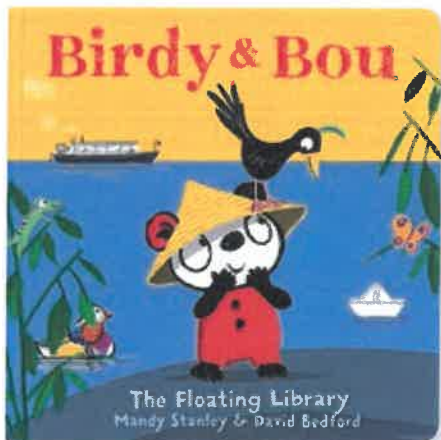
## **Animal ABC**

Jannie Ho

Nosy Crow

A is for Alligator, B is for Bear – but I is also for Iguana, and N is for Narwhal!

Some unusual animal choices complete the alphabet in this funky, modern animal-themed ABC board book: a cute and fun must-read for pre-schoolers starting to learn their letters.



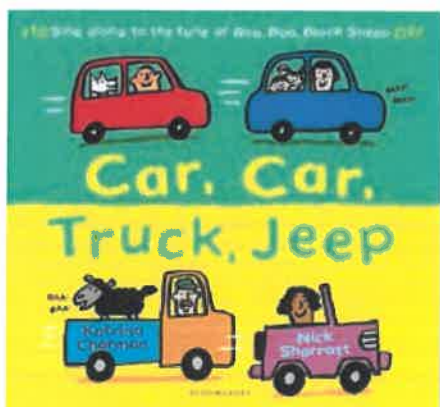
## **Birdy & Bou: The Floating Library**

David Bedford, Illustrated by Mandy Stanley

Simon & Schuster

Bou can't wait to borrow his favourite book from the floating library – and a new friend, Birdy, helps him to read it.

There's a lovely message of sharing here, and that having fun with books is one of the best things you can do with a friend.



## **Car, Car, Truck, Jeep**

Katrina Charman, Illustrated by Nick Sharratt

Bloomsbury

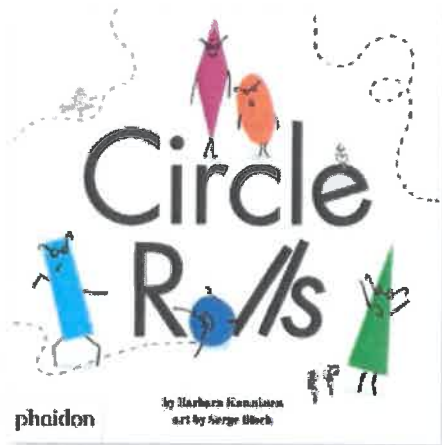
This colourful rhyming journey to the seaside is sung to the tune of 'Baa, Baa, Black Sheep' and showcases vehicles and transport of all kinds. Who'd have thought going out in the car for the day could be so much fun!

Joyful, noisy, exciting and enriched by Nick Sharratt's trademark illustrations.

Illustration from *Read the Book, Lemmings!*  
© Zachariah OHora (Andersen Press)



Age  
0-3



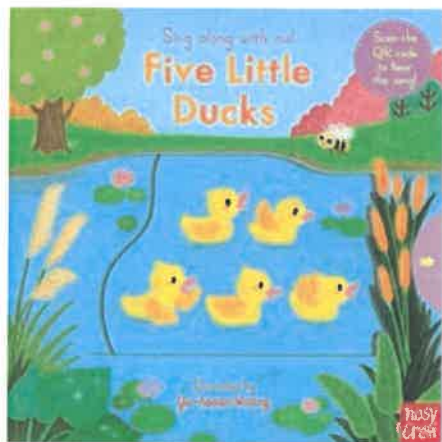
### Circle Rolls

Barbara Kanninen,  
Illustrated by Serge Bloch

Phaidon

The force of a tiny man's sneeze sends Circle rolling off on an eventful adventure, where he encounters a variety of other shapes.

With rhyming text and simple collage and ink illustrations, which are remarkably expressive, this humorous picture book is an ideal way to introduce shape and colour to young children.



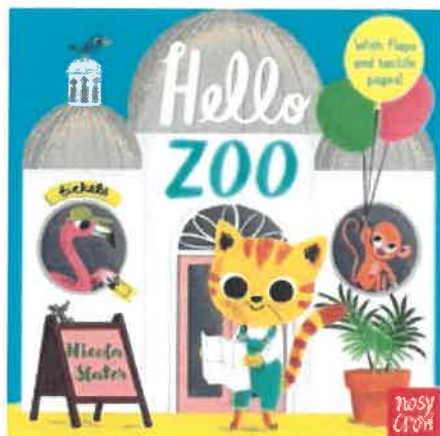
### Five Little Ducks

Yu-hsuan Huang

Nosy Crow

Five little ducks go swimming one day, but when Mother Duck calls them back, only four little ducks return. What's going on?

This chunky board book has fabulous pull tabs to explore, revealing the next part of the song – plus a little wheel that makes the ducks swim round a pond.



### Hello Zoo

Nicola Slater

Nosy Crow

Ludo the cat is visiting the zoo. He peeks behind the giant fold-out flap and finds Max the little elephant, who's doing laundry with his mummy, a trio of lion cubs having an art lesson, and a musical zebra family.

Lovely illustrations, and flaps with holes create lots of interactive fun.

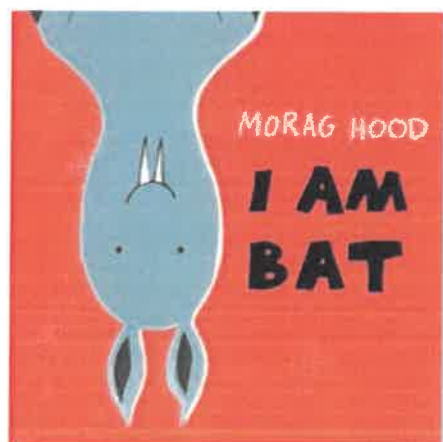


**Hello Hello**  
Brendan Wenzel

Abrams & Chronicle

Say 'Hello!' to a whole host of familiar and unusual animals, birds, reptiles and sea-creatures: hairy, scaly, spotty, spiky, gigantic and tiny.

Minimal text and an underlying ecological message characterise this stunning picture book. Illustrated in a colourful collage style, it celebrates the diversity and beauty of the natural world with great humour.

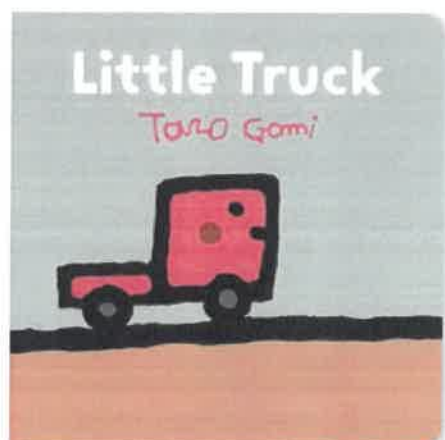


**I Am Bat**  
Morag Hood

Two Hoots

Bat has some cherries. But when Bat's back is turned for a moment, the cherries start to disappear..

This brilliantly funny, fruit-filled book captures the fickleness and changing whims of childhood in a few short sentences and brightly coloured images. A brilliant read-aloud book to share with little ones.



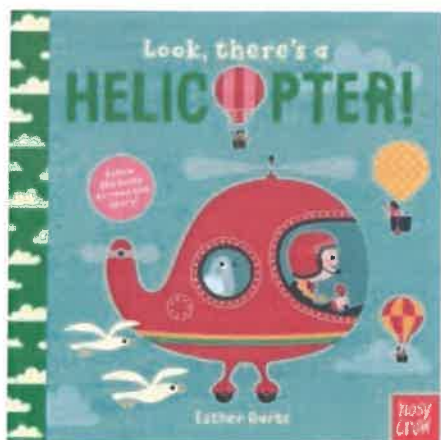
**Little Truck**  
Taro Gomi

Abrams & Chronicle

Little Truck is speeding off on an adventure, but he needs a bit of help from Big Truck, especially when he gets tired...

A cute, concise story about little ones taking their first steps of independence. The simple illustrations are really effective, and the text is lovely to read aloud.

Age  
0-3



### **Look, There's a Helicopter!**

**Esther Aarts**

**Nosy Crow**

Fans of helicopters will love this rhyming board book with holes integrated in each image that lead to a discovery on the next page.

The illustrations are bursting with colour and life, and are filled with details for young readers to explore. An entertaining addition to any bookshelf.



### **Who's Wearing a Hat?**

**Sam Taplin, Illustrated by Stephen Barker**

**Usborne**

Whose scarf is blue? Who's smiling at you? Cats, monkeys, birds, frogs and tortoises parade through the pages of this book, which is full of clear, well-sized odd ones out and things to spot.

Full of fun questions for little ones to answer, this cute board book is perfect for 2 to 3s.



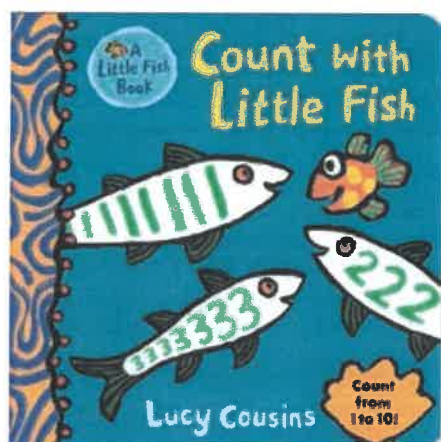
### **Poor Little Rabbit!**

**Jörg Mühle**

**Gecko Press**

Oh, no – Little Rabbit has fallen over! He's hurt his elbow and it's bleeding. A plaster will definitely help – and maybe you could say the magic rhyme?

Mühle's *Little Rabbit* books make reading a really interactive experience, and demonstrate how books for little ones can be original and accessible at the same time.



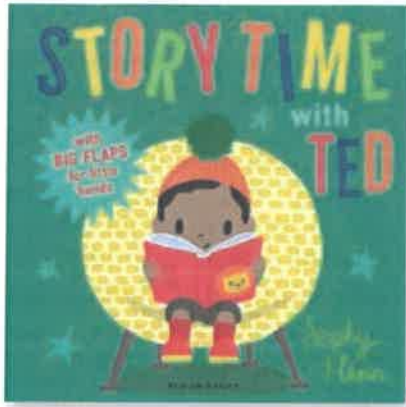
### **Count with Little Fish**

**Lucy Cousins**

**Walker Books**

This sturdy fish-themed counting board book has bold and bright illustrations, and basic rhyming text to read aloud: from 'One little fish, swimming in the sea' to 'Two twin fin-fin fish, as pretty as can be'.

At the end, young readers can spot all the types of fish that have swum through the book.

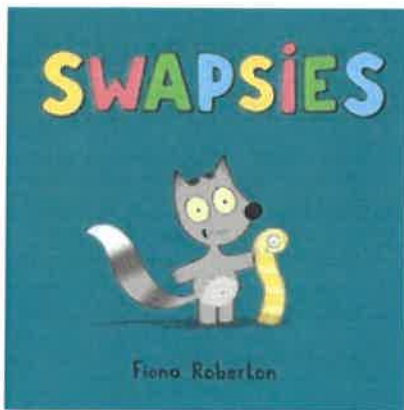


**Story Time with Ted**  
Sophy Henn

Bloomsbury

Ted's getting geared up for story time. Could it be an adventure story with dinosaurs? A wizarding tale of magic? A fairy tale or even a spooky yarn?

Chunky, bright illustrations are perfectly suited to a young audience, and robust card pages and giant flaps mean even the youngest readers can take part.

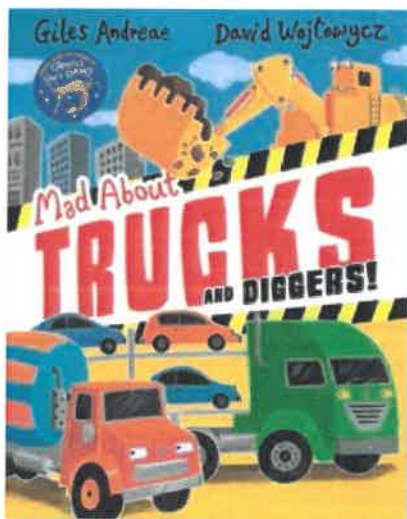


**Swapsies**  
Fiona Robertson

Hodder Children's Books

Fang loves Sock. Sock is yellow, stripy, squeezey and smells like bananas. Philip loves Train. Train is red, shiny, honky and smells like tomatoes. And there's always Stick, after all...

Aspirational reading for toddlers and pre-schoolers, which reminds us that friendship makes us want to share.

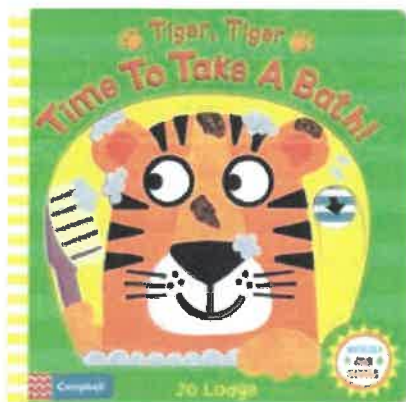


**Mad About Trucks and Diggers!**  
Giles Andreae, Illustrated by David Wojtowycz

Orchard Books

From a steam roller to a fire engine, this fun-filled picture book features a myriad of exciting vehicles for children to explore.

The rhyming text is accompanied by bright, bold illustrations, creating a lively book which will be treasured by any toddler who's 'mad about trucks and diggers'.



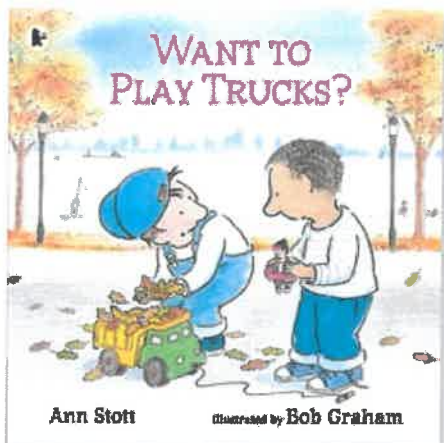
**Tiger, Tiger, Time to Take a Bath!**  
Jo Lodge

Campbell Books

Have you got dirt behind each ear? Then take a bath like Tiger here! Or, for a shiny, bright-white smile, brush your teeth like Crocodile!

With brilliant moving parts made from sturdy, thick card, toddlers will love to help these animal characters with their personal grooming.

Age  
0-3



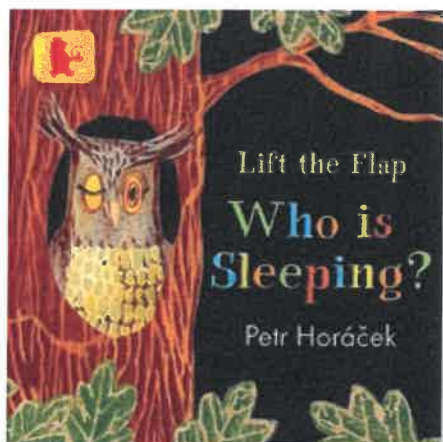
### **Want to Play Trucks?**

**Ann Stott, Illustrated by Bob Graham**

**Walker Books**

In the sandpit at the park, Jack wants to play trucks – but Alex wants to play with dolls. Can the pair reconcile their contrasting interests and play happily together?

Beautifully observed illustrations complement a thoughtful tale of divergence, disagreement and compromise that challenges some gender stereotypes.



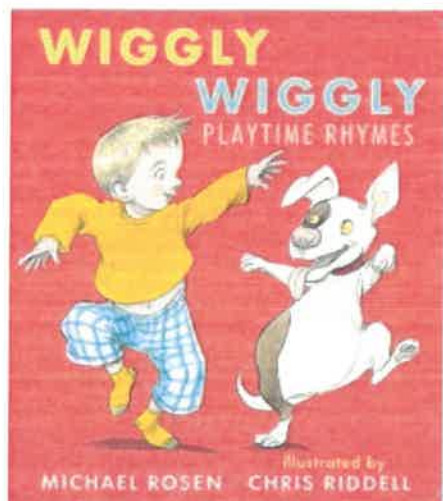
### **Who is Sleeping?**

**Petr Horáček**

**Walker Books**

Who is sleeping in the tree? It's Owl! And who is sleeping under the leaf? It's Frog!

Petr Horáček's friendly and colourful nature illustrations are showcased in this simple and effective lift-the-flap book, with sturdy pages that are perfect for curious little hands.



### **Wiggly Wiggly Playtime Rhymes**

**Michael Rosen, Illustrated by Chris Riddell**

**Walker Books**

Six simple, delightful poems burst from this charming little board book, from wiggly pigs to a crunchy, munchy lunchtime with a crocodile.

The partnership of two previous Children's Laureates make this a very special book to read, sing, cuddle with and giggle at – and learn by heart.