

Reading List for Gifted Early Years Readers

We are often asked for ideas of reading material for competent early years readers. This is difficult to advise on because all children are at different stages and have varying likes and dislikes. However, below we have produced a list of materials suitable for gifted early years readers who are ready to move on from traditional picture books. There is also a list of reading material for gifted key stage 1 readers available.

Supporting a Gifted Early Years Reader

Gifted children's emotional development is sometimes out of line with their reading ability and anyone supporting them needs to consider the appropriateness of the subject of the book, along with the level of difficulty. It is important that gifted children are given support in understanding what they are reading. This can be done through discussing characters' feelings, asking what they think will happen next, discussing what they would do in a certain situation or looking up unknown words in a dictionary. In order for children to develop as readers, it is a good idea for them to broaden their horizons by varying the subject, format and media.

Non-Fiction

- *Wonderwise* series by Mick Manning and Brita Granstrom – a non-fiction series, related to a young child's world, with lovely artwork. Titles include 'What's Under My Bed?', 'What's Up?' and 'Is A Blue Whale The Biggest Thing There Is?'.
- *Animal Families* by Dorling Kindersley is a book showing how young animals do just what children do.
- *Earth Matters* edited by David Rothschild, CEO of Adventure Ecology, is part of Dorling Kindersley's 'Made With Care' series and informs readers about our incredible planet and how to look after it.
- *DK First Reference* series of seven books with titles such as *Nature Encyclopedia*, *Dinosaur Encyclopedia* and *Science Encyclopedia*. Great visual appeal for younger readers.
- *Usborne See Inside* series, including *Ancient Rome*, *Your Body* and *Space* has added appeal as there are lots of flaps to explore.
- *A Life Like Mine* and *Children Just Like Me*, published by Dorling Kindersley in association with UNICEF, show how children around the world live.
- *I Wonder Why* series published by Kingfisher is full of information presented in a young child-friendly format.

Fiction

- The *Hairy Maclary* books written by Lynley Dodd, have a wonderful rhyming text and give a sense of right and wrong to the reader.
- *Billy's Bucket* by Kes Grey – Billy wants only one thing for his birthday - a bucket. Inside it, he can see all kinds of magnificent sea creatures. But Mum and Dad are sceptical and, when Dad unwittingly uses the bucket to clean his car, he's in for a big surprise!
- *The Gaskitts* series by Allan Ahlberg – a great format with chapters and pictures:
 - *The Man Who Wore All His Clothes*
 - *The Woman Who Won Things*
 - *The Cat Who Got Carried Away*
 - *The Children Who Smelled A Rat*
- *The Green Ship* by Quentin Blake – gives a positive message about the value of play for developing the imagination and a vehicle for learning.
- *Meet Charlie* books by Hilary McKay – thinner novel-style books about a boy who gets into trouble.

- *The Rumblewick Diaries* Collection – lively adventures about a witch’s cat.
- Anything by Dr Zeuss is suitable for this age group and young children will love the sounds of the words and tongue-twisters.
- *Clarice Bean* books by Lauren Child are available as picture books or paperbacks, depending on the child. The language and humour is unusual and the format is captivating. The same author has some other complicated picture books, such as *That Pesky Rat* and *Beware of the Storybook Wolves*.
- *Hubert Horatio Bartle Bobton-Trent* also by Lauren Child is a complex picture book about a child-genius.
- *The Gentle Giant* by Michael Morpurgo is a picture book format with complex language.
- *It Was A Dark and Stormy Night* by Janet Ahlberg is another picture book with a complicated story.
- *The Tall Story, Rent A Friend and The Thing In The Sink* by Frieda Hughes are a series of books with chapters and colourful illustrations.
- *The Legend Of Spud Murphy, The Legend Of Captain Crow’s Teeth and The Legend Of The Worst Boy In The World* by Eoin Colfer.
- *The Giraffe and the Pelly and Me* and *The Enormous Crocodile* by Roald Dahl are both suitable for younger readers.
- *Barefoot Books* produces a variety of storybooks, many with stories from different cultures.

Poetry

- *Who’s Been Sleeping in My Porridge?: A Book of Wacky Poems and Pictures* by Colin McNaughton
- *Noisy Poems* by Debi Gliori
- *The Puffin Book of Utterly Brilliant Poetry* by Brian Patten
- *The Silly, Slimey, Smelly, Hairy Book* by Babette Cole

Websites

Accelerated Reader Book Finder recommends books according to author, title, subject and keywords: <http://www.arbookfind.co.uk/default.aspx> .

Essex Libraries Ask Chris website helps readers choose books to read: <http://askchris.essexcc.gov.uk/> .

Red House Website is an online shop. Reviews are conducted by children and books are sorted according to age: <http://www.redhouse.co.uk> .

Bookbag A website with reviews and many top ten lists. Books are not sorted by age, rather by subject and type of book. http://www.thebookbag.co.uk/reviews/index.php/Category:For_Sharing .

NAGC Fact Sheets available to download at www.nagcbrtain.org.uk/parents.php?id=92

P22 Early Readers NAGC Fact Sheet

P23 Challenging a Gifted Reader NAGC Fact Sheet