

30 books to read before you're 2

Better Beginnings is a Western Australian early literacy program developed and managed by the State Library of Western Australia and delivered through public libraries.

It connects families with books through free book boxes. Better Beginnings strives to improve literacy and learning outcomes for all WA children by encouraging families to read, talk, sing, draw and play with their child every day.

www.better-beginnings.com.au



Australian author/illustrator



Western Australian author/illustrator



STATE LIBRARY

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

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Bush Bubs

Written and illustrated by Helen Milroy
FREMANTLE PRESS, 2025



Look, Baby, Look: Outside

Written and illustrated by Louise Lockhart
NOSY CROW, 2026



Tap Tap Bang Bang

Written and illustrated by Emma Garcia
BOXER BOOKS, 2013



All the Firsts

Written by Toni D'Alia
Illustrated by Sian Wheatcroft
HARDIEGRANT CHILDREN'S PUBLISHING, 2025



Whoosh! Walter's Wonderful Web: A First Book of Shapes

Written and illustrated by Tim Hopgood
MACMILLAN CHILDREN'S BOOKS, 2023



Australia: First Colours

Written and illustrated by Jess Racklyeft
AFFIRM KIDS, 2024



Dinner Time!

Written and illustrated by Tom Jellett
A&U CHILDREN'S, 2025



Tell Me About Space

Written by Lisa Varchol Perron
Illustrated by Jennifer Falkner
LITTLE SIMON, 2024



Rhyme Cordial

Written and illustrated by Antonia Pesenti
SCRIBBLE, 2019



Bon!

Written by Margaret Wild
Illustrated by Andrew Joyner
PUFFIN, 2019



The Whales on the Bus

Written by Katrina Charman
Illustrated by Nick Sharratt
BLOOMSBURY CHILDREN'S BOOKS, 2020



Can You Dance?

Written by Sally Morgan
Illustrated by Kathy Arbon
THE INDIGENOUS LITERACY FOUNDATION, 2018



This Little Joey

Written and illustrated by Renée Trembl
PUFFIN, 2022



Sing With Your Baby Every Day

Written by Claire Grace
Embroidered by Chloe Giordano
FRANCES LINCOLN CHILDREN'S BOOKS, 2025

It is never too young to start reading to your baby! Board books are perfect for babies to explore!



Baby Ways

Written by Nola Allen and Margaret Robson Kett
Photographs by Frances Adrijich
FREMANTLE PRESS, 2006



Sounds All Around Us

Written and illustrated by Ryhia Dank
HARDIE GRANT CHILDREN'S PUBLISHING, 2022



On Our Walk

Illustrated by Ashleigh Abbott
LITTLE BOOK PRESS, 2024



The Little Book of Australian Nursery Rhymes

Written and illustrated by Frané Lessac
WALKER BOOKS AUSTRALIA, 2025



I'll Love You Till the Cows Come Home

Written by Kathryn Cristaldi
Illustrated by Kristyna Litten
HARPER COLLINS US, 2018



At the Beach I See

Illustrated by Kamsani Bin Salleh
MAGABALA BOOKS, 2017



Hooray for Fish

Written and illustrated by Lucy Cousins
WALKER BOOKS, 2017



Moving Your Body

Written and illustrated by Beci Orpin
LOTHIAN CHILDREN'S BOOKS, 2019



Can I Cuddle the Moon

Written by Kerry Brown
Illustrated by Lisa Stewart
SCHOLASTIC PRESS, 2010



Moo, Baa, La La La!

Written and illustrated by Sandra Boynton
BOYNTON BOOKWORKS, 2004



In the Rockpool

Written by Andrea Rowe
Illustrated by Hannah Sommerville
HARDIE GRANT CHILDREN'S PUBLISHING, 2023



The Nose, Toes and Tummy Book

Written by Sally Nicholls
Illustrated by Gosia Herba
ANDERSEN PRESS, 2024



Rudie Nudie

Written and illustrated by Emma Quay
ABC BOOKS AU, 2014



The Butterfly Garden

Written by Michael Torres
Illustrated by Fern Martins
MAGABALA BOOKS, 2019



Say Goodnight

Written by Renae Hayward
Illustrated by Rebecca Mills
FREMANTLE PRESS, 2025



Odd Bugs

Written by Laura Gehl
Illustrated by Gareth Lucas
ABRAMS APPLESEED, 2026



Australian author/illustrator



Western Australian author/illustrator

The books on this list have been selected by the Better Beginnings team of children's literature specialists and are favourites of many children and their families.

To find your nearest public library, visit the Library Finder on our website



Can't find the exact book shown here?

For more book suggestions, visit the Book Finder on the Better Beginnings website:



Did you know that your child can have their own FREE library card?

Make book browsing and borrowing at your local public library a regular part of your week.

Story sharing sessions may be held at your library too. Just ask!