



CHILDREN'S BOOKS REVIEWED

Learning Through Play in PICTURE BOOKS

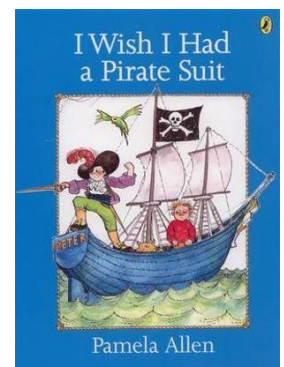
Play is an important ingredient for raising happy, healthy and well-adjusted individuals. In play, toddlers and pre-schoolers test out life skills, like language, sharing and task completion. Young children take play very seriously. Research tells us that imaginative play is vital to children's social and cognitive development. When children embody a character, animal or person, they try out new language. They are also engaging and developing **theory of mind**. Theory of mind is the understanding that other people think differently to you, and is the corner stone of empathy and social interaction. **Imaginative play** is an opportunity for children to literally walk in another person (or animal's) shoes and experience what it is to be that character.

I Wish I had a Pirate Suit by Pamela Allen, 1991

"I wish I had a pirate suit. Peter has a pirate suit ...".

Peter's younger brother dreams that if only he had the pirate suit, he would be the pirate captain and the boss of the seven seas.....

When Peter wears his pirate suit, his little brother had better beware--because Peter is the captain and his little brother is the crew. But there's one thing for little brother to look forward to, and that's the day Peter outgrows his pirate suit . . . and his galley slave becomes captain.

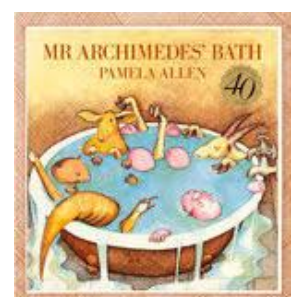


Mr. Archimedes' Bath by Pamela Allen, 1991

Every time Mr Archimedes has a bath with his friends, the water overflows.

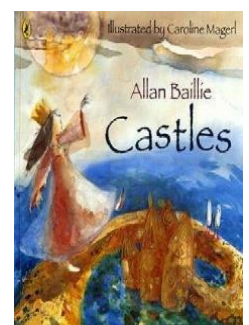
Somebody must be putting extra water in the bath. Is it Kangaroo? Or is it Goat or Wombat? Whoever it is, Mr Archimedes is going to find out.

A lovely way to introduce Archimedes displacement theory to young children.



Castles by Allan Baillie, Caroline Magerl (Illustrator), 2007

One day a Princess came to the beach. She built a castle. But it wasn't long before a rotten Pirate arrived. A day at the beach becomes a wonderful adventure in this picture book by Allan Baillie, the acclaimed author of Drac and the Gremlin. With stunning illustrations by Caroline Magerl, this magical story celebrates play and the imagination.



Drac and the Gremlin by Allan Baillie, Jane Tanner (Illustrator), 1988

Drac, the Warrior Queen of Tirnol Two, is in terrible danger. She is fearless, as fast as the Whirlwind, as wise as the White Wizard. She must capture the Gremlin of the Groaning Grotto. But he is quick, quiet as a spider, and very, very dangerous... Two playful children and their pets star in this delightful mock science-fiction story. Seas of garden sprinklers and volcanic charcoal grills serve as a playground for fantastic adventures.

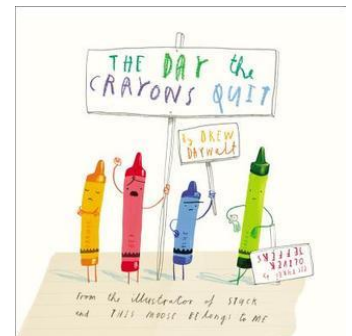


The Day the Crayons Quit by Drew Daywalt, Oliver Jeffers (Illustrator), 2013

Poor Duncan just wants to colour. But when he opens his box of crayons, he finds only letters, all saying the same thing: *We quit!*

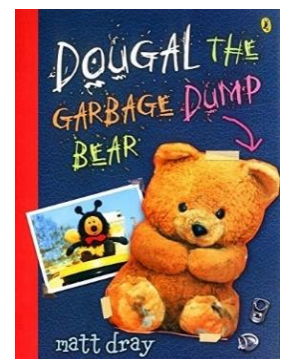
Beige is tired of playing second fiddle to Brown. Blue needs a break from colouring all that water, while Pink just wants to be used. Green has no complaints, but Orange and Yellow are no longer speaking to each other. What is Duncan to do?

A playful, imaginative story that will have children laughing and playing with their crayons in a whole new way.



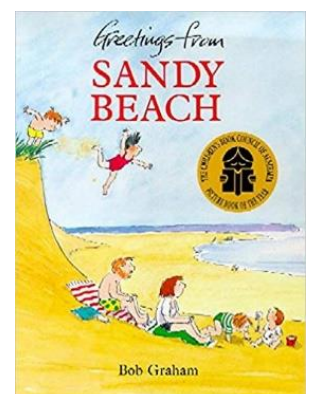
Dougal the Garbage Dump Bear by Matt Dray, 2004

Dougal was a shy little bear with a heart of gold. He never got to play with the other toys in the house because they were all new and clean and perfect and he was not. He often wished he could be new like them... Then, one rainy afternoon, Dougal is left outside and ends up in the garbage bin. How much can a teddy bear? But even though he's down, Dougal is not out. He finds a new life and learns that sometimes bad luck can be your best friend.



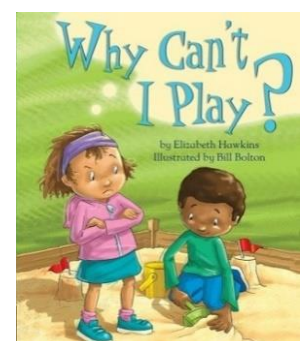
Greetings from Sandy Beach by Bob Graham, 1992

The story of one family's camping holiday at the beach - a beach they must share with a bus load of school kids and The Disciples of Death motorbike gang! A joyous blend of characters and events to delight readers of all ages. Winner of the Children's Book Council Children's Picture Book of the Year (1991).



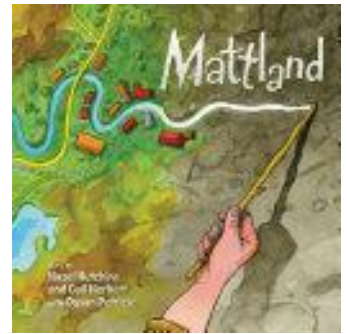
Why Can't I Play? by Elizabeth Hawkins, Bill Bolton (Illustrator), 2010

It's the summer holidays, and a new girl arrives at the park. She's mean and bossy. She boasts about her house, with its lake full of boy-eating crocodiles, its dungeon towers and hazards. When the new girl's mother hands out party invitations, the children are naturally not so keen, but their parents think the party is a lovely idea and they agree to take the children.



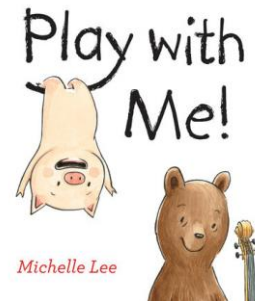
Mattland by Hazel J. Hutchins, Dušan Petričić, and Gail Herbert, 2008

Matt is miserable. The subdivision where he now lives is surrounded by nothing but muddy fields of rocks and sticks. But when Matt ventures out, his imagination kicks in. He draws a muddy, winding line and names it Snake River. A pile of rocks becomes the Dog Tooth Mountains. Just like that, Mattland is born. Soon a girl shows up with a handful of helpful odds and ends. Piece by piece, she and Matt expand their new world with popsicle-stick bridges and scrap-paper boats. And when a rainstorm finally threatens to wash everything away, all the neighbourhood kids appear and help stave off the flood. A stirring story about the infectious pleasures of play.



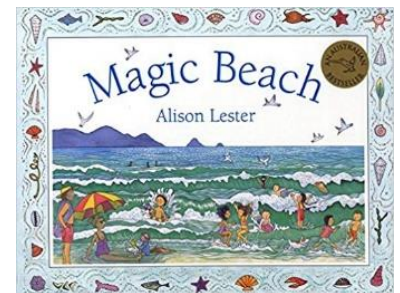
Play with Me! by Michelle Lee, 2017

Sometimes playing together isn't as easy as it sounds. Pip is bursting with ideas for playtime, Dress up! Magicians! Dolls! but Nico rejects each of them until Pip becomes furious. Fortunately, Nico comes up with a solution that works for both. These irresistible characters show that finding a way to play together will always hit the right note.



The Magic Beach by Alison Lester, 2004

Visit a perfect beach where you can swim, surf, splash through the waves, build sandcastles, beachcomb, explore rock-pools, muck about in boats, fish from the jetty, and build a bonfire under the stars. Visit *Magic Beach*, where adventure begins...



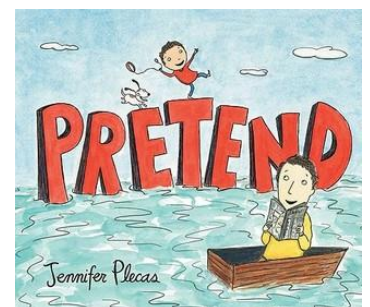
Let's Play! by Deborah Niland, 2007

Is Blue Cat flying, or jumping on the trampoline? Is Red Dog diving, or hanging from the monkey bars? Is Yellow Bird sleeping, or whizzing down the slide? Three furry, feathery friends have more than just fun in the playground.



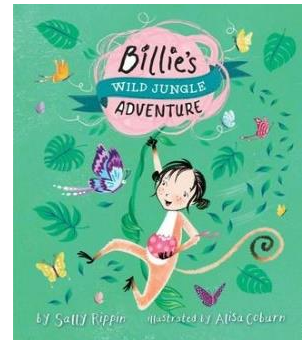
Pretend by Jennifer Plecas, 2011

What could have been a quiet afternoon at home turns into an adventure for Jimmy and his dad. Their couch turns into a boat! The staircase becomes a mountain! And blankets become a cosy hut, just right to cuddle inside. The one thing they don't have to pretend is how much they love one another. Jennifer Plecas's bold artwork and lively text come together in a celebration of imagination and the love between a parent and child.



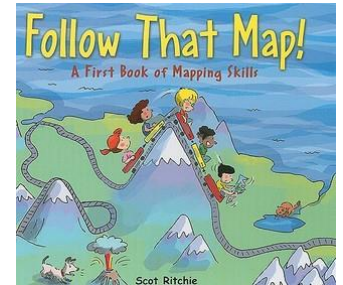
Billie's Wild Jungle Adventure by Sally Rippin, Alisa Coburn (Illustrator), 2015

When Billie B Brown goes to kindergarten, every day becomes a super dooper adventure ... Billie is off on a wild jungle adventure! But can she escape the wriggly pink-and-purple python? Another addition to Sally Rippin's delightful Billie B. Brown books, specifically **Billie B. Brown's Super-duper Adventure series!**



Follow That Map by Scot Ritchie, 2009

Sally and her four friends, Yulee, Pedro, Nick and Martin go on a round-the-world hunt for Sally's missing dog, Max, and cat, Ollie. We follow them as they search their neighbourhood, the park, the city, out in the country, off to a secret island, up a mountain, around the world and into outer space. At each stop, we follow their journey on a map, learning about all the features of a map in the process. Each adventure focuses on one feature – legends, roads, directional symbols, the scale bar, etc. An interactive picture book that demonstrates key mapping concepts, but also helps kids understand and explore their everyday environment.



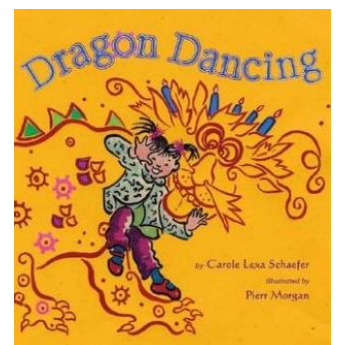
Hide and Seek by Irini Savvides, Owen Swan (Illustrator), 2008

Sometimes when you play hide and seek with your grandpa, he lets you win. This time Bapo is nowhere to be found. Where do you look when you've checked under the bed, up in the tree, behind the goat shed - and he's still hiding? In this moving story, a young boy comes to terms with his grandfather's death.



Dragon Dancing by Carole Lexa Schaefer, Pierre Morgan (Illustrator), 2006

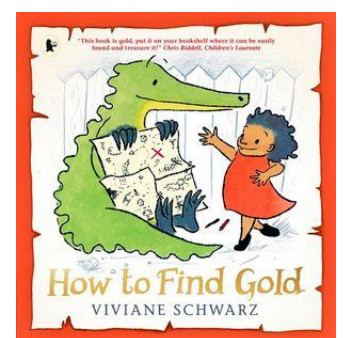
After reading a book about dragons with their teacher, these inventive pre-schoolers decide to make their own dragon out of coloured paper, yarn, feathers, and . . . themselves! Soon they're out the door, onto the playground, and into another world—the world of imagination. Becoming a magnificent dragon, the children dance over snowy mountains, through tall forests, and into whispery meadows, before returning to school for a wonderful birthday treat. A perfect accompaniment to Chinese New Year celebrations.



How to Find Gold by Viviane Schwarz, 2017

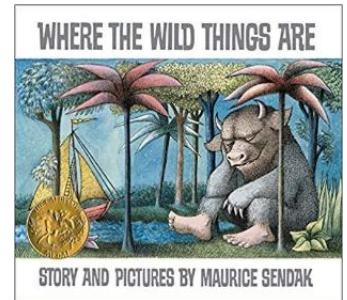
"LET'S FIND GOLD," said Anna. "That would be dangerous and difficult," said Crocodile. "Good!" said Anna. "Let's go!"

A story of imaginative play and of two friends, Anna and Crocodile, who are on the hunt for gold. But finding gold isn't easy. Oh no! It's dangerous and difficult... Just what will the two friends discover? Teeming with adventurous spirit and boasting wonderfully funny dialogue, this story introduces two unforgettable characters in a gorgeous, classic new art style from Viviane Schwarz.



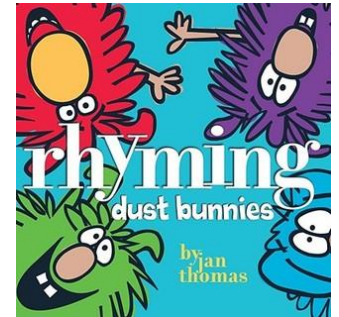
Where the Wild Things Are by Maurice Sendak, 1963

One night Max puts on his wolf suit and makes mischief of one kind and another, so his mother calls him 'Wild Thing' and sends him to bed without his supper. That night a forest begins to grow in Max's room and an ocean rushes by with a boat to take Max to the place where the wild things are. Max tames the wild things and crowns himself as their king, and then **the wild rumpus begins!**



Rhyming Dust Bunnies by Jan Thomas, 2009

Bug! Rug! Mug! Hug! These dust bunnies love to rhyme. Well, except for Bob. Much to the other bunnies' frustration, Bob can never get the rhythm right. Then he saves everyone from a big, scary monster wielding—gasp!—a broom, and they all breathe a sigh of relief. But can Bob save them from the big, scary monster's next attack?



Press Here by Herve Tullet, 2011

The single touch of a finger sparks a whimsical dance of colour and motion in this joyful celebration of the power of the imagination. *Press Here*. That's right. Just press the yellow dot. And turn the page. An interactive picture book containing coloured dots and inviting the reader to use their imagination. When the reader rubs the dots, they change colour, claps over the dots they grow, tilts the book and the dots slide around presenting a colourful array of images. An amazing book that involves active participation from the reader.



Mix It Up by Herve Tullet, 2014

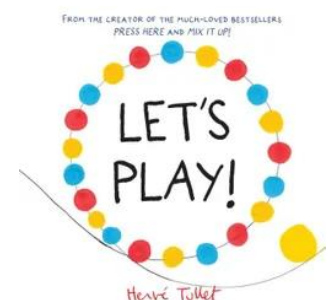
From the creator of the international bestseller *Press Here* comes a joyful exploration of colour that will enchant young and old. Use your hand to mix up the colours. It's like magic. Smudge, rub, shake and have fun! An exuberant invitation to play.



Let's Play! by Herve Tullet, 2016

'Hi there, do you want to play?'

Join the yellow dot on an adventure of colour and movement, surprise and imagination. A wonderful new dot-play adventure from the much-loved, internationally bestselling creator of *Press Here* and *Mix it Up!*

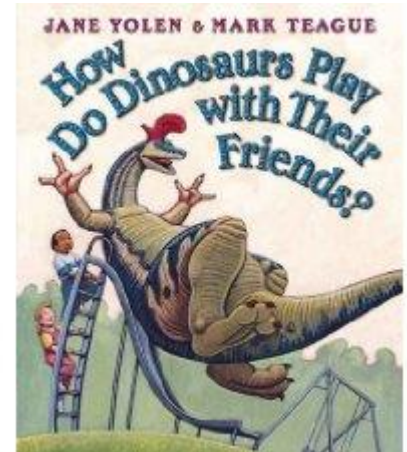


How Do Dinosaurs Play with Their Friends?

by Jane Yolen, Mark Teague (Illustrator), 2006

*What if a dinosaur's friends come to play?
Does he mope, does he pout if he can't get his way?
Does he hide all his dump trucks, refusing to share?
Does he throw his friends' colouring books up in the air?*

Time and time again, children are told to "play nice." This brilliantly illustrated board book is packed with rhymes that will teach children how. Mark Teague's laugh-aloud illustrations, along with Jane Yolen's playful text, will show children that "playing nice" can be easy and fun. Perfect for parents to read aloud with their children, this book is as humorous as it is instructive.



Daddy, Can You Play with Me?

by Harriet Ziefert, Emilie Boon (Illustrator), 1998 **Little Hippo Series**

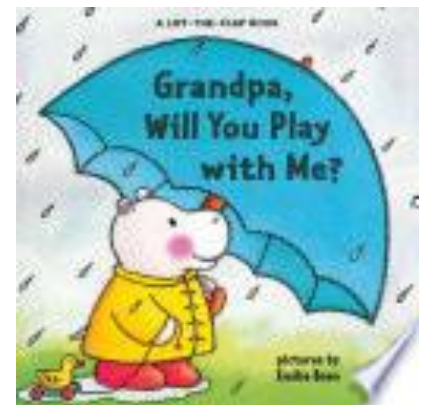
Little Hippo wants to play, but his daddy is always too busy. Readers **lift a flap** on each page to find out what Daddy is doing and when he finally will have the time to play. Beautiful, colourful illustrations by the author and illustrator of the Peterkin series of books.



Grandpa, Will You Play with Me?

by Harriet Ziefert, Emilie Boon (Illustrator), 2005 **Little Hippo Series**

When Little Hippo wakes, he knows just what he wants to do. He searches for his Grandpa and asks 'Grandpa, can you play with me?' But Grandpa has to say, "Not yet." When you **lift the flaps** you'll see all the things that keep him busy. But soon the time comes when Grandpa's free, and together he and Little Hippo cuddle up and read. What a treat!



Compiled by Dajo Finlayson 2020
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