

## Dr. Gina's Favorite Participatory Books

Before we go, I want to share with you some of my favorite read-aloud participatory books. Many of these books mean something very special to me. They have helped me to bring happiness and fun into my home and school.

All of these books can be used for joyful and engaging shared reading experiences. Some of them have the interaction built right in. Their authors were thinking about participation as they were writing the books, making it super easy for you to get your students fully engaged. Eric is one of those authors. His books are written to facilitate and optimize shared reading experiences, and they are in good company here. In this list, I share a little about each book, how I use it, and why I like it so much.

### ***Alphablock* by Christopher Franceschelli**

This book provides an ABC experience that will captivate your listeners during a read-aloud through an interactive discovery of the physical shape of each letter in the alphabet.

***Bark, George* by Jules Feiffer** My own children fell in love with George in this story. It is a fun interactive book where children can't wait to guess what animal George will present next.

### ***The Book With No Pictures* by B. J. Novak**

You will enjoy reading aloud this super-silly book as most of the words are made up, nonsense words.

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

**by Bill Martin, Jr., and Eric Carle** I always love reading this story aloud to kids. The rhythmical storyline includes many different animals, and it will draw you in from the very beginning of the story.

***Chicka Chicka Boom Boom* by Bill Martin, Jr., and John Archambault** The way this classic text is written allows for so much fun! Read it while playing musical instruments, add movements, or make it into a song!

### ***Counting Kisses: A Kiss & Read Book***

**by Karen Katz** This is one of the first interactive books my husband and I read over and over to our children when they were little. Babies and toddlers will enjoy lifting tabs and opening doors as you read aloud this loving, interactive book.

### ***The Deep Blue Sea: A Book of Colors***

**by Audrey Wood** This is a very simple and dynamic text about colors. Your students will love the fun repetitive text that helps build memory (cumulative phrases).

***Down by the Bay* by Raffi** The storyline captures a classic, familiar, and silly song with funny illustrations that make the book come to life. Add in a guitar or any musical instrument for more interactive fun!

***Excellent Ed* by Stacy McAnulty** This is a perfect storybook to use for social-emotional development with your students. Ed is a dog who is determined to find something that he is really good at.

***From Head to Toe* by Eric Carle** This book provides opportunities for readers to do whole-body movements like the animals in the story. My students have always enjoyed "kicking like a donkey and waving their arms like a monkey" as I read this book aloud!

***Glad Monster, Sad Monster: A Book About Feelings* by Ed Emberley and Anne Miranda**

I love the way this is designed, as it allows for your students to take turns wearing the die-cut masks built into the book itself.

***Goodnight Moon* by Margaret Wise Brown**

This is one of my favorite family nighttime stories to read aloud to my own children. The colorful pictures and simple poetry always provide the perfect read to prepare for sleep.

***Groovy Joe: Ice Cream & Dinosaurs***

**by Eric Litwin** Who doesn't love ice cream, dinosaurs, and disco? Read, dance, and sing along with this engaging story.

***Guess How Much I Love You* by Sam McBratney**

I chose this book because it has special meaning for me. Following the births of our three children, the physicians gave my husband and me a signed copy of this book. For many years our children had fun acting out the many ways in which the Nutbrown Hare mother shared her love for her child.

***High Five* by Adam Rubin** Here is a high-energy, interactive game for all participants. Read it today... as you will become the best "high-fiver" after reading this book!

***Hush! A Thai Lullaby* by Minfong Ho** This is a story of a young mother asking all of the noisy animals to be very quiet while her baby sleeps nearby. The book takes a soft, poetic approach to include the many animal noises that are present.

***I Ain't Gonna Paint No More!* by Karen**

**Beaumont** Here is a picture book that will make you want to get up and do something creative! It encompasses the magic of expressing your talents through art.

***I Got the Rhythm* by Connie Schofield-Morrison**

This simple narrative will make you want to snap and clap as you read aloud this fun, interactive book about feeling a rhythm.

***I Love You, Stinky Face* by Lisa McCourt**

This author captures the ongoing curiosity of a persistent young child as he/she continuously tests his/her mother's love with silly, creative questions. My kids loved how the character's imagination created funny scenarios.

**I Spy Books** These search-and-find interactive books consist of excellent conversation prompts, opportunities for storytelling, and activities for teamwork that you can use with children of all ages. These books provide excellent practice in visual discrimination and help build vocabulary. There is so much you can do with these books!

***It's Okay to Be Different* by Todd Parr**

I use a lot of Todd Parr's books at home and in the classroom. This book is my favorite of his. It is a vibrant, feel-good book that focuses on how we are all unique and different from one another. The text is a beautiful way to support student/child social-emotional development.

**Mem Fox books:** *Possum Magic*, *Time for Bed*, *Wilfrid Gordon McDonald Partridge*, *Tell Me About Your Day Today*, and *This & That* are just a few of the many, many delightful and fun books written by author Mem Fox.

***The Monster at the End of This Book* by Jon**

**Stone** Kids will be making guesses page after page! Grover leads you through an interactive tale as he begs you to not turn the next page! You will have to read it to find out more!

**Mother Goose Nursery Rhymes** These classic, beloved tales can be found in many different types of print. I love them so much because they expose students to repetition and rhyme in such a beautiful way.

**No, David! by David Shannon** Your students will delight in reading this book as it shares a simple tale of all the funny and naughty things the author did when he was younger.

**The Little Old Lady Who Was Not Afraid of Anything by Linda Williams** Silly onomatopoeia phrases will captivate your students as the old woman ventures through a funny tale.

**Pete the Cat and His Four Groovy Buttons by Eric Litwin** This is one of my favorite Pete the Cat books. It's a great way to teach subtraction to your students!

**The Poky Little Puppy by Janette Sebring Lowrey** This is one of the original Little Golden Books I read as a child. This lovable puppy takes us on an adventure, and the repetitive phrases capture all audiences.

**Press Here by Hervé Tullet** Interact with simple, colorful dots by tilting and shaking the book throughout this read-aloud favorite.

**Sing and Dance in Your Polka Dot Pants by Eric Litwin** I also wanted to include this silly Nut family book because it will have everybody singing and dancing!

**The Snowy Day by Ezra Jack Keats** The excitement and wonder of a snow day are highlighted through the eyes of a young child. Our family grew up in the depths of northern Michigan, a beautiful winter wonderland, and this book captures the magic of the season.

**Three Minute Tales by Margaret Read MacDonald** This is a great choice when you want to demonstrate the magic in storytelling.

**Touch the Brightest Star by Christie Matheson** I used this at a summer family literacy camp and the families absolutely loved it. This author brilliantly captures the magic of the nighttime sky. As you read aloud this book, your listeners interact with the sun, the stars, and the animals in the story.

**TouchThinkLearn: ABC by Xavier Deneux** This is a touch-and-feel experience for early learners using die cuts and cut-outs of the alphabet.

**Tuesday by David Wiesner** This is one of my favorite books on this list. It is a Caldecott classic and does not have any words! It includes dynamic images that capture a magical Tuesday when frogs fly through the air on their lily pads. It is the perfect book to spark storytelling and writing activities where children can write or share their own words to the story.

**Victor Vito and Freddie Vasco by Laurie Berkner** I have always loved using Laurie Berkner songs at both home and at school. This is one of my favorite books, as it uses colorful images and words from one of her best songs.

**We're Going on a Bear Hunt by Michael Rosen and Helen Oxenbury** Children will enjoy this book's catchy, rhythmic narrative as the author leads them on a journey hunting for exciting and silly things.

**What! Cried Granny by Kate Lum** When reading this book aloud, it always makes me think of how my kids could find a million silly excuses to delay bedtime. Your students or children will love the interaction between Granny and Alex as they experience the challenges and joys of a first sleepover.

**Yo! Yes? by Chris Raschka** This funny, 34-word book tells the story of two boys and their growing friendship.