

Kitty Cat, Kitty Cat, Are You Going to School?

- Written by Bill Martin, Jr. and Michael Sampson
- Illustrated by Laura J. Bryant
- Two Lions, 2013

This book is used to introduce fundamental literacy skills that children will use throughout the curriculum and beyond, such as examining pictures in a book, listening closely during read alouds, and thinking about books. As children follow Kitty Cat on his fun day at school, they practice echo reading, an important skill for developing fluency.

Lots of Feelings

- Written and photographed by Shelley Rotner
- Millbrook Press, 2003

Through a variety of photographs of diverse children, readers learn about a range of feelings and expressions. This book is used to build children's emotional vocabulary. It is also used to discuss how to read other people's expressions and interpret how they feel.

You Are Friendly

- Written by Todd Snow
- Illustrated by Melodee Strong
- Maren Green Publishing, 2008

Beginning with a hug, this book shows examples of the many ways in which people are friendly to one another. Bright illustrations show children using kind gestures and behaviors. Children will recognize their own friendly selves in these pages, and they will build connections between these friendly behaviors and the Power of 3.

Friends at School

- Written by Rochelle Bunnett
- Photographs by Matt Brown
- Star Bright Books, 1995

The photo essay in this informational book invites readers to spend a school day with a friendly and diverse pre-kindergarten class. The pictures and descriptions of how this class learns and plays all day introduce children to many activities that will become a part of their daily classroom routine. It features ideas and concepts that will be discussed during this unit, such as classroom responsibilities and friendship.

Little Blue Truck

- Written by Alice Schertle
- Illustrated by Jill McElmurry
- Harcourt Inc., 2008

Blue is a friendly truck who greets all the farm animals as he travels along, unlike the grumpy dump truck. When both trucks get stuck in the muck, Blue's animal friends come to help. This book illustrates the importance of being friendly, and how we can work together to solve problems. During read alouds, this book is used to introduce important concepts of literacy, such as making predictions, rhyming words, and identifying the book elements of problem and solution.

Vocabulary

- muck: thick mud
- swerve: move to the side quickly

Max Cleans Up

- Written and illustrated by Rosemary Wells
- Puffin Books, 2002

Max's room is disastrously dirty, but he has a hard time cleaning up after he plays! This lighthearted book provides an opportunity to talk about how to take care of the shared classroom environment, and how important it is to act responsibly. Children will build connections between this book and discussions on what might happen if they did not clean up after themselves.

Vocabulary

- organized: when everything is in its right place

I Can Do It Myself!

- Written by Diane Adams
- Illustrated by Nancy Hayashi
- Peachtree Publishers, 2009

In this book, we meet Emily Pearl, a girl who likes to do things on her own. Her spirited, "I can do it" attitude is used to highlight the importance of independence in taking care of ourselves. Children can draw connections between their own experiences and Emily's.

Vocabulary

- creep: move along slowly, down low

Hooray for Hat!

- Written and illustrated by Brian Won
- Houghton Mifflin, 2014

This playful book tells the story of Elephant, who wakes up one day in a bad mood. After receiving the unexpected gift of a hat, Elephant finds his mood lifted. He sets off to find all of his grumpy friends and make them feel better. This book is used to encourage children to draw connections to their own experiences being grumpy and facilitates discussion on how we can help our friends when they are feeling bad. During read alouds, children participate in an echo reading of the book, to promote their fluency.

Vocabulary

- grumpy: a feeling when you are in a bad mood

Tyrannosaurus Wrecks

- Written by Sudipta Bardhan-Quallen
- Illustrated by Zachariah Ohora
- Abrams Books for Young Readers, 2014

This book tells the story of a class of dinosaur children who all play and learn together. But Tyrannosaurus always wrecks! This rhyming book, filled with all kinds of dinosaurs, is used to introduce concepts of vocabulary, such as two words that sound the same but mean different things. Children will build connections between this book and the importance of treating objects gently and acting kindly during group play.

Vocabulary

- tidies: to clean up or make neat