



Ten Picture Book Authors Every Childcare Provider Should Know

The ten individuals listed below consistently create high-quality, appealing picture books for young children. Books by each of these individuals should be available at or through your local public library.

1. **Molly Bang** excels at using shape, color, and simple language to introduce themes and concepts that are essential in the lives of young children.

When Sophie Gets Angry -- Really, Really Angry.... Blue Sky/Scholastic, 1999.

Yellow Ball. Greenwillow, 1991.

The Grey Lady and the Strawberry Snatcher. Four Winds Press, 1980.

Ten, Nine, Eight. Greenwillow, 1987.

2. **Kate Banks** writes lyrical texts that ingeniously connect small children to the larger world through familiar daily routines that are comforting.

And If the Moon Could Talk. Illustrated by Georg Hallensleben. U.S. edition: Frances Foster /FSG, 1998.

Baboon. Illustrated by Georg Hallensleben. U.S. edition: Frances Foster / FSG, 1997.

Close Your Eyes. Illustrated by Georg Hallensleben. Frances Foster Books/Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2002.

The Night Worker. Illustrated by Georg Hallensleben. Frances Foster Books/Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2000.

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3. **Byron Barton** might best be described as a minimalist. Barton's simple, brightly colored illustrations are captivating, and there's never an extra word or line in his crowd-pleasing stories that often center on machines.

The Three Bears. Harper, 1991.

I Want To Be an Astronaut. Crowell, 1988.

Machines at Work. Crowell, 1987.

My Car. Greenwillow, 2001.

4. **Donald Crews**, the favorite author of many two-year-olds, writes and illustrates boldly colored books about favorite topics such as planes, trains, and trucks. His detailed illustrations are accompanied by nearly wordless texts invite a lot of participation. His book design always reinforces left-to-right movement across the page.

Freight Train. Greenwillow, 1978.

Parade. Greenwillow, 1983.

School Bus. Greenwillow, 1984.

Truck. Greenwillow, 1980.

5. **Denise Fleming** uses distinctive collage style illustrations featuring handmade paper and batik in her books, which draw from the natural world to tell stories that appeal to preschoolers. Her expert pacing and playful use of language make for great read-alouds.

The Everything Book. Henry Holt, 2000.

Lunch. Henry Holt, 1992.

Mama Cat Has Three Kittens. Holt, 1998.

In the Tall, Tall Grass. Henry Holt, 1991.

6. **Pat Hutchins** excels at using developmental tasks and easy concepts as the building blocks for her engaging stories. Her use of repetition, perfectly paced texts, and clear, boldy colored illustrations make her books perfect for group story times.

The Very Worst Monster. Greenwillow, 1985.

My Best Friend. Greenwillow, 1993.

Shrinking Mouse. Greenwillow, 1997.

Titch. Greenwillow, 1971.

7. **Angela Johnson's** quiet stories generally revolve around contemporary family life and feature African Americans.

One of Three. Illustrated by David Soman. Orchard, 1991.

Do Like Kyla. Illustrated by James Ransome. Orchard, 1990.

When I Am Old with You. Illustrated by David Soman. Orchard, 1990.

Julius. Illustrated by Dav Pilkey. Orchard, 1993.

8. **Ann Jonas** combines simple concepts with the drama of everyday life to create appealing, child-centered sotries. Her books frequently show biracial children and are full of familiar objects in a child's world.

Now We Can Go. Greenwillow, 1986.

Two Bear Cubs. Greenwillow, 1982.

When You Were a Baby. Greenwillow, 1982.

Where Can It Be?. Greenwillow, 1986.

9. **Keiko Kasza** uses animal characters and humor to tell entertaining satires about characters in conflict. Her resolutions are often surprising and always satisfying.

A Mother for Choco. Putnam, 1992.

The Wolf's Chicken Stew. Putnam, 1987.

My Lucky Day. Putnam, 2003. 32 pages.

The Rat and the Tiger. Putnam, 1993.

10. **Lynn Reiser's** genius is to make complex, multilayered picture books completely accessible to young children by remaining true to their interests and abilities. Her warm stories are accompanied by colorful, expressive art.

Margaret and Margarita/Margarita y Margaret. Greenwillow, 1993.

The Surprise Family. Greenwillow, 1994.

Cherry Pies and Lullabies. Greenwillow, 1998.

Ten Puppies. Greenwillow Books/HarperCollins, 2003.