An extended readiness unit plan for beginning first graders who demonstrated a limited degree of readiness in kindergarten is provided. The unit theme is the five senses, and the following sequence of presentation is used: sight, hearing, smell, touch, and taste. Visual-perception activities receive the most emphasis. Included in procedures for teaching each section are descriptions of individual, small-group, and large-group activities; patterns for some materials used; and poems, film, and art activities. Recommended time limits are also included for each unit. Suggested teacher references and supplementary films are listed, and an extensive booklist for first-grade independent reading, published by Elementary English, is appended. (CM)
SOME TRAVEL FASTER THAN OTHERS
A UNIT ON READING READINESS

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IMPACT SUMMER WORKSHOP
JUNE, 1969

PROJECT IMPACT
207 SCOTT STREET
COUNCIL BLUFFS, IOWA

I want to read
I want to read
I want to read
I want to read
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## Procedure

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## BIBLIOGRAPHY

[For bibliography details, please refer to the document text.]
Children entering first grade present a wide range of readiness levels, not only for word attack skills and beginning reading, but also for all learning activities. Some children come to school with the ability to read simple written material. Others arrive with well-developed readiness skills. Others, however, arrive with problems which handicap readiness for beginning reading.

Therefore some children will need to continue with a strong, well-organized readiness program; others will be able to begin the first steps of learning to read.

This unit is prepared for children on level one who displayed a limited degree of readiness in kindergarten and are indicated as being slow starters; therefore an extended readiness program is needed.

This unit does not apply to any one certain basal reading series but will be the first unit taught at the beginning of the school year. Hopefully, on the completion of this unit first graders will have an abundance of assurance and be ready for formal reading.

Research points out that success in beginning reading depends, to a large extent, upon certain attitudes, habits, skills, and abilities. Failure to establish these may cause confusion for the pupil and result in loss of interest and lack of success in beginning reading. Most authorities agree that the following are prerequisites to reading:

- Ability to interpret pictures
- Language facility to express ideas
- Understanding of the meaning of reading
- Understanding that reading progresses from left to right and from top to bottom
- Knowing how to make the return sweep from the end of one line to the beginning of the next
- Ability to distinguish between words and sentences
- Ability to match identical letters, words, phrases, and sentences
- Ability to hear sounds in words
- An interest in words
- A small sight vocabulary

A Basic Readiness Test should be given to all first grade children following the first two weeks of school. I have suggested a time level - but this depends on the children—it may take less or more time.
PURPOSE

To give children many opportunities to explore and discover the things around them and at the same time help prepare themselves to become good readers.

This unit is based around the five senses because seeing, tasting, touching, smelling and hearing helps us to learn.
Specific Goal: To see that each child develops the Reading Readiness skills.

Affective:
1. To increase self confidence.
2. To enjoy the sounds of language.
3. To work in individual groups.
4. To learn to listen carefully.
5. To maintain their eagerness to learn to read and their expectations they are going to learn to read.

Cognitive:
1. Ability to interpret pictures.
2. Language facility to express ideas.
3. An understanding of the meaning of reading.
4. Understanding that reading progresses from left to right and from top to bottom.
5. Ability to distinguish between words and sentences.
6. Ability to match identical letters, words, phrases and sentences.
7. Ability to hear sounds in words.
8. An interest in words.
10. Ability to follow directions.
Content - Things about us

I. Tangible things

A. Sight - Visual perception

1. Yourself (image or reflection)

2. Colors
   a. Primary
   b. Secondary

3. Shapes
   a. Circle
   b. Square
   c. Triangle

4. Refining visual perception
   a. Progressing from left to right
   b. Relative size
   c. Identifying likeness and differences in detail
   d. Coordinating eye - and-hand movements
   e. Identifying rhyme (with pictures)
Myself

Content - Seeing (My Name and I)

Media introduced - still pictures, poetry, camera, magnifying glass, tape recorder

Time - 2 days

Pupil Activity

1. Make illustration of self and write name below. Use 9x12 paper
   - Myself
   - is my name
   - This is me

2. Make illustration of family (9x12)

Small Group Activity (Grouping 4 or 5)

1. Tell about illustration of self (oral)
2. See if same letters more than once in name
3. See if letters appear in each other's names that are found in own name
4. Stress left to right movement.

Large Group Activities

1. Gather the children in a semicircle holding a small mirror out of sight. (If group is 20 have 2 or 3 mirrors.) Tell children you have a wonderful picture to show them — they must take turns looking at it — and they must not say a thing about what they saw until everyone has had a chance to look. Pass mirror or mirrors around — talking about the wonderful picture but not telling what they saw. Finally ask what they saw in the "wonderful picture."

2. Introduce - "How Well Can We See?" and introduce new word reflection. Where else can we see a reflection besides the mirror?

3. Read:

   Reflection

   In the mirror
   I can see
   Lots of things
   But mostly me.

   -- Myra Cohn Livingston
Home (We See)

The sea is ringed around with hills
    And scalloped with white foam;
I've filled my pockets full of shells
    And now I'm going home.

-- Jean Jaszi

(Taken from Everybody Has Two Eyes)

Suggest that they close their eyes and listen to poem again, "to see" things that are not mentioned in the poem. Discuss things that they saw while listening. If the children are completely unfamiliar with the sea, guide their thinking about the things they saw.

4. Read story - Is This You? by Ruth Krause and Crockett Johnson. This could be taped to permit the child to re-hear story again and could follow along with book.

5. Use camera to take individual photograph of themselves. They could bring from home pictures of themselves for a bulletin board. Again, child may dictate something about the picture.

6. For individual book — (first page) each child makes picture of a girl or boy on 9x12 oaktag. Cover face with piece of cloth. Raise up and say, "Peek-a-boo."

Learning Outcome:

1. Habit of observing and discussing sense of sight in our everyday environment

2. Speaking vocabulary - reflection
COLORS

2. Content - Color

Media Introduced - color chart on wall (caterpillar), flannel board
films: color - 16mm - 6 min.
light and dark - 16mm

Time - 5 days

Pupil Activity

1. Tell favorite color

2. Draw something and color favorite color

3. Paste colored toothpicks on paper, and make own design

   a. Tell them what color to pick up - yellow, green, etc.

   b. Tell them to put 2 greens together, 3 reds, etc.

   c. They make their own design - put glue just on each end.

Large Group Activities

1. Call attention to color chart on wall.

2. Play game - "Colors". Make circles from eight basic colors -
   put a string through each circle so they can be worn around
   neck.

   a. Children form circle - (sitting on floor). All close
      eyes.

   b. Teacher first chooses two children to be "it" and
      places their favorite colors around necks, putting
      colors to back.

   c. Rest open eyes. Each "it" chooses a child to get up
      and see if he can see the color on his back.

   d. The "it" tries to keep turning so the color cannot be
      seen.

   e. If he sees color and gives it the correct name, he
      may be "it". He chooses a color and also chooses
      someone to try and see his color.

   When game has ended, say that people who are wearing something
   red today should go to their seats, blue ..., etc.

3. Game - Color Bingo. Make cards from oaktag. Color squares
   different colors - use breakfast foods (colored "Cheerios")-
   call color - play as regular Bingo.

(See next page for illustration of playing card.)
4. Hold the shapes of color cards in your hands as a fan. Read Part I of the poem below and give the cards to different children as you name the cards; then read Part II of the poem to recall the cards. Read entire poem and let the children supply the words underlined in the poem.

Part I

Eight big cards - so shiny and new
Green and yellow, red and blue,
White one, orange one and brown one, too
Oh here is the purple one; I'll give them to you.
Caterpillar (Worm) Color Chart

Head of Chart

Others same leave off features

White Red Blue

white
Who would like the blue card; it could fly to heaven?
Away it goes... now there are seven.
Who would like the green card; green as many sticks?
Away it goes... now there are
Who would like the brown card; brown like a hive?
Away it goes... now there are five.
Who would like the white card; white as a door?
Away it goes... now there are four.
Who would like the orange card; as pretty as can be?
Away it goes... now there are three.
Who would like the purple card? I've saved it just for you.
Away it goes... now there are two.
Who would like the yellow card; as yellow as a bun?
Away it goes... now there is one.
Who would like the red card? My but we've had fun.
Away it goes... now there are none.

Part II

Cards of bright colors can be lots of fun,
Bring me the green card; now I have one.
I need another; who'll give me the blue?
Both in my hand; now I have two.
Who has the orange card? Bring it to me.
Orange, blue and green; now I have three.
Let's have a bright one; I want one more.
Red is the right one; that will make four.
Four isn't many——why, sakes alive!
Hurry, bring a purple card; then we'll have five.
Yellow's the fellow we now want to mix
With the rest of our colors; three — four — five — six.
White is in fashion for the angels of heaven,
Here it's the style worn by card number seven.
Our company of cards needs one last mate,
Brown is the color that will make our sum eight.
Colored Leaves

Red leaves, yellow leaves
And leaves of russet brown
Fluttering on the tree tops
In country and in town.
Puff! Come a breath of wind.
See them flutter down!
Red leaves, yellow leaves
And leaves of russet brown.

---Reba Schneider
5. Fingerpaint—This work could be displayed on bulletin board—"Colors We Like"—again sentence could be dictated to teacher using left to right.

Recipe for finger paint—1/2 box gloss starch, mixed to a cold paste. Add 3 quarts of boiling water. Cook until opaque. Cool. Add 11/2 cups soap flakes. This keeps indefinitely if no color is added until time for use. It is not necessary to wet paper before using the mixture.

6. Using 2 different colors to make one color—Introduce poem—"Paints" by Ilo Orleans. Children may do this.

7. Read poem—"The Purple Cow" by Gelett Burgess

8. Tell story using flannel board—"The Red Shoes"—author unknown.
The Purple Cow

I never saw a Purple Cow,  
I never hope to see one  
But I can tell you, anyhow,  
I'd rather see than be one.

- Gelett Burgess

Paints

When I put Yellow  
Paint on Red,  
The colors change  
To Orange instead.

And, mixing Blue  
And Red, I get  
A pretty shade  
Of Violet.

Another trick  
That I have seen:  
Yellow and Blue  
Turn into Green.

There's magic when  
My colors mix  
It's fun to watch them  
Doing tricks.

- Ilo Orleans
SHAPE

3. Shape

Content- circle-square-triangle

Media Introduced - flannel board, magnetic board, overhead projector

Small Group Activity

1. Have several different sizes of circles, squares and triangles made - stress left to right concept by putting small circles on left and working to right according to size. Do same with squares and triangles. Flannel board could also be used here.

2. Have children draw figures of different sizes on paper with crayon.

Large Group Activities

1. Give several different sizes and colors of circles, squares, and triangles to children. Have them construct a real or make believe animal. Have child dictate sentence about the animal. Have show time.

2. Review of colors could be used here by saying draw a large red circle, a little yellow square, etc.

3. Have each child draw on a clear acetate, thus making transparencies for the overhead.

Finger Play

1. Make a steeple of a church (use index fingers - resembles a triangle).

2. Circle - index fingers and thumbs touching.

3. Try to place fingers to make a square.

Poem

Read poem and illustrate on flannel board or black board.
Box Fun

One box makes a car.
   Beep! Beep!
Two boxes make a dump truck
   Boom!
Three boxes make an airplane.
   Zoom!
Four boxes make a train.
   Toot! Toot!
Five boxes make a castle
   Hurrah! Hurrah!
Six boxes make a caterpillar
   Humpty - humpty - hump.

--- Patricia and Richard Scarry
Refining Visual Perception

4. Refining Visual Perception
   a. Programming from left to right

1. (See next page for directions)
1. (Continued) Comment that the wind is blowing the first flag in each row toward the right. Pupils are to look at the two other flags in each row and underline the one that the wind is blowing toward the left. Pupils may color the flags in each row, using the same color for the two like flags.

2. Pictures of cars, trucks, or bicycles some of which point clearly to the right, some to the left, can be used to help children distinguish left from right. Pupils can arrange them in two rows on the holder, one row in which all vehicles are going toward the right and another row in which all are going toward the left.

3. To give children practice in left-to-right progression, duplicate or draw on the board a series of simple add-on pictures for children to copy. The first picture (left) will be the base, the middle ones will add details, and the last (right) will be complete.

Pupils repeat the pattern, filling up the rest of the paper.

See if pupils can fill in:

b. Relative Size

An exercise sheet or board divided into squares can be used for visual discrimination. For example, you might paste or draw circles in graduated sizes in the first row of boxes, squares in the next, then triangles. An envelope clipped to the back, should contain identical pieces which a youngster is to match with the ones on the board.
d. Coordinating eye and hand movements:

1. Cutting out outline pictures of simple objects, trying to cut on the line.

2. Tracing around cardboard cutouts.

3. Tearing simple shapes such as a ball, a tree, or a house from newspapers.

4. Drawing large pictures on the chalkboard with water and a paintbrush.

e. Identifying rhyme

1. Mount pictures of objects with names that rhyme. Put one set of pictures on the holder in a column and the other set along the chalk edge. Have children find the "rhyming pictures" and match them (hook, book, bear, pear).
B. Auditory perception  (Things we can hear).

Media Introduced - record player, tape recorder, clay, film:

_Whistle for Willie_ - Weston Woods, Weston, Conn.

Pupil Book Activity

1. Draw picture of favorite animal and put squeaker (10¢ store) behind picture. Press for sound. (Page 2 of child's booklet)

2. Let individual children make use of your classroom listening post, using the earphones for record player. Children can draw or paint their sensory impressions as they listen to music, poetry or stories.

Large Group Activities

1. Pre-record children's voices saying, "My name is (long pause) Joan." See if classmates can identify the mystery voice.

2. Put directions on tape that require an active response from individual students.

3. The record album _Sounds Around Us_ (an album of records that stimulates auditory and visual imagery - Scott, Foresman & Co.) can be used for independent work in identifying sounds. After boys and girls have listened to and discussed with you the first two records in the album - "Around the House" and "Around the Farm" - replay a part of either record. Then let children draw pictures that tell about the sounds they recall: father sawing a board, mother running the vacuum, etc. This exercise encourages good listening habits.

4. Children bring from home things to hear. They can be displayed on a table.

5. Objects made from clay that have sounds.

6. Describing Time- Have the group decide how they will describe a particular child. Then chant in a sing song manner as follows:

   Example-

   Mary wears her red dress, red dress, red dress,
   Mary wears her red dress all day long.
7. Action time-

Touch your nose with your left hand.
Touch your mouth with your right hand.
Touch your chin with your right hand.
Touch your feet with both hands.
Touch your hair with your right hand.
Put your left hand on your right arm.
Put your right hand on your left arm.
Put your right hand on your left leg.
Put your right hand near your left eye.
Put your left hand on your right ear.

8. Listening Time-

I am going to tell you a very short story. You must listen very carefully, because when I have finished, I am going to ask you some questions. Remember your answers must be in complete sentences.

Tommy took his dog, Blackie, for a walk in the park. They met Mary, who was out for a walk with her two pet cats, Friskie and Fritz. They spent a very lovely afternoon together; then they went home.

a. How many children are in the story?
b. What were their names?
c. How many different kinds of animals are in the story?
d. How many animals are in the story?
e. What were the animals' names?

9. Activity Time-

Whisper in a child's ear one of the following activities. Let other children guess what the child is doing. The one who guesses correctly will then do another activity.

1. Play a piano
2. Unlock a door
3. Sharpen a pencil
4. Play a violin
5. Put on make-up
6. Pull on gloves
7. Play a toy horn
8. Beat a drum
9. Pour tea
10. Shake hands

10. Game-

Identification Time—Choose a volunteer to be "it" and have him sit on a chair with back to group. The following sounds are made while his back is turned by various children as directed by the teacher. Child who guesses correctly may be "it".
a. Tearing paper  h. Bouncing ball  
b. Closing door  i. Opening windows  
c. Clicking scissors  j. Writing on chalkboard  
d. Moving chair  k. Tapping foot  
e. Tapping desk  l. Turning pages  
f. Snapping fingers  m. Rattling paper  
g. Coughing  n. Slamming books

11. Poetry--

A Jolly Noise
Gurgle, gurgle, gurgle, gurgle,
Glug, glug, glug —
Goes the milk from the bottle
When I pour it in my mug.

Gurgle, gurgle, gurgle, gurgle,
Glug, glug, glug —
Goes the water down the drain
When I pull the bathtub plug —

Gurgle, gurgle, gurgle,
Glug, glug, glug.

—— Ethel Jacobsen

Quiet Please
Sh-h-h — Sh-h-h—
Mother whispers
Baby is sleeping!
So pretend you're a mouse
When you come through the house.
And I like a mouse; I like a mouse;
Come Creeping! Come Creeping!

Sh-h-h
Sh-h-h—

—— Emily M. Hilsabeck

Zero Weather
When we walked home on Friday
for lunch,
The crisp white snow had a
soda-cracker crunch.

—— Aileen Fisher
C. Smell

Media - things to smell (pleasant and unpleasant)

Pupil Book Activities

1. Page 4 of your book draw flowers and put perfume on them.

2. Each child makes his nose from paper. Suggest it could be drawn – maybe cone shaped – next, bring something you like or don't like to smell from home and put it by your nose.

Large Group Activities

1. Place various scents in small boxes with small holes punched in top. Have children select a box and smell and guess what they think it smells like.

2. Discuss things children like and do not like to smell.

3. Show film - "Mother Cat and her Baby Skunks."

4. Read poem - "The World is Full of Wonderful Smells."

The World is Full of Wonderful Smells

The world is full of wonderful smells,
And you have a nose that always tells
Of bread in the oven, hot and nice
Of cake being baked with lots of spice
Of a barn with fresh cut hay in the mows,
Of horses and pigs and cats and cows,
Of a dog when he's warm and lies in the sun,
Of applesauce and chocolate and a sugar bun.
Wouldn't it be dreadful if you'd no nose to tell
of every wonderful, wonderful smell?

-- Zhenya Gay
D. Touch

Media - objects with different textures

Approximate time - 1 or 2 days

Pupil Book Activity

1. Draw a picture of your daddy's face. On one side place a piece of sandpaper. (Page 3 of child's book.)

Small Group Activity

1. Each child trace and cut out picture of his hand. On each finger paste various textures such as cotton, buttons, sandpaper, wood, etc. Each put own name on.

2. Choose a child to draw a large hand to use for bulletin board. See how many remember to bring from home an object to be felt to be pasted on hand. Children's hands may be placed around large hand.

Large Group Activities

1. Make a touch and feel box. Cover box with contact paper and cut hole for hand to reach in. Objects such as a bit of yarn, a feather, a piece of sandpaper, a piece of coal, a rock, clay, etc.

2. Talk about how we use our hands. Feel various objects such as dresses, hair, shoes, desks, pencil points, etc.

3. Touching time- Have children look at each other while you point out distinguishing characteristics about their clothing, hair and height. Then choose a volunteer to be "it." Have him stand with eyes closed facing the group. Then motion to a child to come up and stand close to "it." By touching the hair and clothing, "It" must guess who the child is.

4. Call attention to color chart (worm). Ask how a real worm would feel.

5. Read the following poems and discuss:
**Touching**

First touch your nose;  
Now touch your toes.

Touch your hair;  
Then touch the chair.

Touch your shoulders,  
Left and right.

Wave your arms —  
Birds in flight.

Now be quiet as a mouse  
And tippy - toe around the room.

— Jane W. Krows

**The New Doll**

My new doll is so squishy soft  
She dimples where I touch her;  
I love my old doll very much,  
But I love my new doll mucher.

— Ogden Nash

**Only My Opinion**

Is a caterpillar ticklish?  
Well, its always been my belief  
That he giggles, as he wiggles  
Across a hairy leaf.

— Monica Shannon

**Mud**

Mud is very nice to feel  
All squishy-squash between the toes!  
I'd rather wade in wiggly mud  
Then smell a yellow rose.

— Polly Chase Boyden
Clay

Oh, so many things to make.
A dog and a basket, a cat and a snake:
- I'm rolling,
- I'm pushing,
- I'm squeezing,
- I'm squishing,
- I'm poking,
- I'm pinching,
- I'm twisting,
- I'm wishing

- a piece of clay into a ring,
- a face,
- a flower -
- everything!

— Myra Cohn Livingston

6. Games:

a. Place objects of various textures and shapes on the table. Let the children look at them and feel them for a few minutes. Pick up one object and hold it up for all to see. Say: Who would like to tell us about this object? Choose one child and ask him to tell what it is, whether it is hard or soft; rough or smooth; heavy or light. Repeat with the other objects. Place the objects in a large paper bag. Select a child and say: (Name) close your eyes tightly and take something out of the bag. Keep your eyes closed while you guess what you have in your hands. Child may have one guess; then tell him to open his eyes and see if he is right or wrong. If he is right, he takes the object to his seat. If he is wrong, he returns it to the bag. If necessary say: I like the way (name) played this game. He kept his eyes closed tightly all the time so he could be surprised when he opened them. Continue game as long as interest is sustained or as time permits.

b. Touch game:

- Touch your eye
- Touch your desk
- Touch something hard
- Touch something round
- Touch something square
- Touch something narrow
- Touch something wide
- Touch something to your left
- Touch something to your right
- Touch something that is low
- Touch something that is high
E. Taste

Media - pleasant and unpleasant things to eat.

Pupil Book Activity

1. Page 5 (last page) of booklet. Pupils bring piece of candy wrapped in paper. Paste on page 5 and play make believe, "taste."

Large Group Activities

1. Collect in a box an assortment of real or pictured objects that can be easily grouped as things to feel or touch (a bit of yarn, a feather, a piece of sandpaper); to smell (a sachet, a flower); to hear (a whistle, a picture of any musical instrument); to taste (pictures of food). Label four small paper bags with pictures to represent touching or feeling, smelling, hearing, and tasting. One or two children are to sort the objects and place them in the appropriate paper bags. To check the exercise, have children empty the bags, one at a time, and tell you or the class why they sorted the objects as they did.

2. Have children bring different things to smell. Let children guess. These could be used on bulletin board or table.

3. Read:

**All My Senses**

I

I stand beside the doorway
And what do you think I hear?
The chirp - chirp - chirp of grasshoppers
Which sound so very near!

II

I walk around the garden,
And what do you think I smell?
Magnolia, mint, and lilac,
And rose and coral-bell!

III

I sit at the breakfast table
And what do you think I taste?
My cereal, and buttered toast,
Good food I must not waste!
IV

I touch the stones by the lily-pond,
And what do you think I feel?
The soft green moss -- as silky smooth
As the fur of a baby seal!

V

I look outside the window,
And what do you think I see?
A robin, hop - hop - hopping
Beneath the maple tree!

VI

I'm happy I have ears and nose
And tongue and hands and eyes!
With all my senses I enjoy
The world that round me lies.

— Ilo Orleans

Learning Outcome:

1. Habit of observing and discussing the sounds and sights in the everyday environment

2. Speaking vocabulary - senses, crunch, sea, scalloped, foam, mint.

4. Game: Say the following phrases: Ask the children to say whether it makes them hear, smell, taste, feel something.

a. ice cream cone
b. freshly painted room
c. swinging back and forth
d. drinking lemonade
e. riding a bicycle
f. hitting a ball
g. smooth as silk
h. spraying perfume
i. taking a shower
j. rough and scratchy
k. school bell ringing
l. corn popping
m. policeman's whistle
I love to:
feel, hear, see,
taste, smell

Feel  See  Hear  Smell  Taste
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Barbe, B. Walter.  "Teaching Reading."


Harris, Albert J.  *How To Increase Reading Ability.*  New York: David McKay Co.


*Peabody Language Development Kits*  for Level #1 and #2.  American Guidance Service.


*Such Interesting Things To Do.*  Scott, Foresman and Co.


Films

Additional films that could be used with unit:

These are at Area XIII:

S-225  "The Emperor's Oblong Pancake"
S-286  "A First Film on The Wind"
S-234  "Miss Esta Maude's Secret"
S-27   "The Peddler and the Monkeys"
S-140  "Prickly, the Porcupine"
S-156  "Reading for Beginners - Word Sounds"
S-214  "Reading with Susy"
S-51   "Can You Tell It In Order?"

Weston Woods Films  Weston, Connecticut  06897

"Whistle for Willie"  Rental $5.00
"Make Way For Ducklings"  Rental $4.00
"Caps for Sale"  Rental $4.00
INDEPENDENT READING
FOR FIRST GRADERS
A Selected Listing

An imaginative let's pretend book.
Fly-Away has a plan for participating in the air show with all the big planes until he realizes he can't spell the words he wants to write in the sky.
An alphabet book with a car or truck to go with every letter, told in rhymes and gay pictures.
Gives the child an awareness of what his hands can do and the manner in which they are adapted to tasks.
Pictures representing all the changes in a year with names of the months in print.
Anglund, Joan. THE BRAVE COWBOY. Harcourt, 1959.
A small two-gunned cowboy has imaginary encounters with Indians and rustlers.
Anglund, Joan. COWBOY AND HIS FRIEND. Harcourt, 1961.
Brave Cowboy has further adventures with an imaginary bear who imitates every action.
Anglund, Joan. COWBOY'S SECRET LIFE. Harcourt, 1963.
Small Cowboy's imagination turns his daily rounds of home and school activities into adventuresome episodes.

Little Gray Mouse likes to hear the father of the house read bedtime stories to his children every night until an unexpected event occurs.
The fire department finds an unexpected surprise when arriving to rescue Jerry's cat in the tree.
A birthday gift need not be expensive when it has been imbued with the love of the giver.
Barr, Cathrine. BEARS IN—BEARS OUT. Walck, 1967.
Two bear cubs unexpectedly become sight-seers in Yellowstone Park when they stow away in a family car.
Full page photographs and brief factual text for young horse lovers.
A humorous story of a small Indian boy who finds that his canoe holds too many passengers.
Papa Bear, Small Bear, look for honey.

*Asteric indicates that material is particularly suitable for first half of first grade and marks books with fewer words and shorter sentences contained in a smaller book.
Papa Bear buys Small Bear a new bike and insists on teaching him how to ride it, with humorous results.

  The story of a bug who leaves home and tries to help others, but finds that the world is almost too big for him.

  The familiar folktale about little red hen and all the problems she has in getting her friends to help her—until eating time.

  Much suspense as the little man tries to find out what is making the strange noises in his little hut.

  A gay picture book depicting the pre-bed activities that all children share.

- Bethell, Jean. **BARRIE GOES TO A PARTY.** Grosset, 1964.
  Barbie isn't the only girl who has to make a decision on what dress to wear for Nancy's party.

  Barney, who is waiting to be bought in a pet shop, tells his story in first person style.

  In finally overcoming his jealousy for Alan's cat, Barney discovers that someone else loves him too.

  Everyone on the Blue Team think that Barney is in the way until a lost ball changes everything.

  Clyde learns to ride his horse and then becomes involved with some horse riding bank robbers.

- Bethell, Jean. **HOORAY FOR HENRY.** Grosset, 1966.
  Henry has fun at the picnic running races and eating all the pie.

  Petey is an unsuccessful circus performer when he tries to win applause as a lion tamer and acrobat until something unexpected happens.

  Daddy is surrounded by his loving family when he comes home from work.

  Fantasy and realism combine to offer an intriguing approach to a first library experience.

  Full page colored photographs with short text describing a child's everyday world. Concept building materials, 30 titles.

**ABOUT MYSELF:**

- Do you know what?
- What is a birthday child?
- Father is big.
- The littlest house.
- The biggest house.
- Friends! Friends! Friends!
- My friend is Mrs. Jones.

**I TALK—I THINK—I REASON**

- What do you say?
- Furry boy.
- Tell me please! What's that?
- Funny Mr. Clown.
- Benny's four hats.
- Where is Whiffen?
- That's what it is!
- Do you suppose Miss Riley knows?
- A beautiful day for a picnic.
- Colors.
- Three baby chicks.
- I like cats.
- Morning.
- Evening.

**THE WORLD AROUND ME!**

- Let me see you try.
- My tricycle and I.
- Watch me outdoors.
- Watch me indoors.
- Follow the leader.
- Melinda's Christmas stocking.
- How many sounds?
- A box tied with a red ribbon.
- An apple is red.
Bridwell, Norman. BIRD IN THE HAT. Scholastic, 1964.
When Spats, the dog, finds a top hat and then has to share it with a bird, many amusing adventures take place ending with a grand finale.

Clifford has many bad habits but also some especially good ones.

When new people move in and request that their next door neighbor, a witch, move away—strange things begin to happen.

All the things in the world that make it fun to be a small-sized redheaded child.

How a little girl imagines that the bears in the zoo come to pay a return visit to her home.

A little boy's hopping bunny leads him on a merry romp across the countryside.

An umbrella which expands in the rain to cover a little dog, two kittens, three chickens and more.

Nonsense rhymes and repetitions appeal to young humor.

An amusing suspense story: "Was he a rooster or was he a hen?"

A touch of mystery in following the four fur feet of an unknown animal that walks around the world.

An old favorite about the rabbit who says goodnight to all the things around him.

Brown, Margaret Wise. INDOOR NOISY BOOK. Harper, 1942.
Muffin, the dog, listens to all the distinctive sounds of everyday activities inside the house.

Brown, Margaret Wise. THE NOISY BOOK. Scott, 1939.
All the noises in the everyday world are dramatized with a short mysterious plot.

Short rhyming poems about familiar birds and animals; such as "Little old mole, little old mole where have you been?"

All about kindergarten activities and the various achievements of classmates seen in first-grade perspective.

A combination science and guessing book about everyday living things.

One-line rhymes and descriptive sentences give clues to names and characteristics of 14 different animals.

Buckley, Helen. GRANDFATHER AND I. Lothrop, 1959.
A little boy and his grandfather go for an unhurried walk.

All the pleasures of having a grandmother.

The simple pleasures of a snowy blowy day as experienced by a little girl who guides a snow outing.

Buckley, Helen. JOSIE'S BUTTERCUP. Lothrop, 1967.
All about Josie and her bouncy, jouncy, pouncy dog Buttercup.

Buckley, Helen. WHERE DID JOSIE GO? Josie finds many places to hide. Told in rhyming words.

All the exciting things that can be round in shape.

Many things happen selling belts.

INDEPENDENT READING FOR FIRST GRADES: A LISTING

The life cycle of an apple tree from seed to fruit.
Child-style drawings interpret the simple sentences of the brief story.
The letters of the alphabet, small and large, in sequence.
A concept book on friendship in which a child has a striped balloon for a playmate.
A hiding bunny and a chasing puppy play hide-and-seek around the house.
Carroll, Ruth. WHERE'S THE KITTY? Walck, 1962:
A companion volume to "Where's the Bunny?"
A first introduction to riddles for the extra imaginative child with a high sense of humor and language.
More riddles written within the range of a first grade's reading vocabulary.
Many children can identify themselves with Harry, a kitten, who would not throw a kiss of appreciation as requested by his mother.
A popular series dealing with the adventures of Cowboy Sam. Listed in order of difficulty, starting with the easiest:
COWBOY SAM AND BIG BILL.
COWBOY SAM AND FRECKLES.
COWBOY SAM AND DANDY.
COWBOY SAM AND MISS LILLY.
COWBOY SAM AND PORKY.
COWBOY SAM.
All about cowboys, riding, and the West:
PONY RIDER.
CATTLE DRIVE.
A series of fortunate events for Ned are matched by unfortunate circumstances with excitement and suspense on each page.
Charlip, Remy. WHERE IS EVERYBODY? Scott, 1957.
A cumulative story with aesthetic qualities. The landscape fills up sentence by sentence until the rain blots everything out, one by one.
When Benjamin, a pioneer boy, finally finds a pet in the woods that he can keep, something unexpected happens.
Daddy plays face-making games with small Frances at bed-time.
A little girl visits a farm and receives a surprise gift.
A little girl visits all the barnyard animals on a farm.
A farm boy says good morning and good night to everything in his daily life.
Considine, Kate. ONE, TWO, THREE, FOUR. Holt Rinehart, 1963.
Cardinal and ordinal numbers are associated with the twelve months of the year.
Cook, Bernadine. THE LITTLE FISH THAT GOT AWAY. Scott, 1956.
The little boy who likes to go fishing learns to wait and wait while the fish swim around and around until an exciting catch is made.
All about the work in fixing up a boat and the fun that results from it.
Cranstoun, Margaret. 1, 2, BUCKLE MY SHOE. Holt Rinehart, 1967.
All the familiar nursery rhymes with colored illustrations.

POOR ORIGINAL COPY - BEST AVAILABLE AT TIME FILMED
An alphabet book dealing with abstract concepts; from “A is for almost” to “Z is for zigzag”.

Simple information about these animals told through their family life and growth cycle. Listed in order of difficulty.
- BECKY, THE RABBIT.
- SQUEAKY, THE SQUIRREL.
- SKIPPY, THE SKUNK.
- SANDY, THE SWALLOW.
- SALLY, THE SCREECH OWL.
- PUDGY, THE BEAVER.

Leonard, a redheaded boy of scientific bent, has many exciting experiences.
- LEONARD VISITS SPACE.
- LEONARD VISITS THE OCEAN FLOOR.
- LEONARD DISCOVERS AMERICA.
- LEONARD VISITS DINOSAUR LAND.

Darby, Gene. WHAT IS IT SERIES. Benefic, 1960.
Simple text and pictures present first concepts of nature and science.
- WHAT IS A PLANT.
- WHAT IS A SEASON.
- WHAT IS A TURTLE.

A grandmother goes via subway to meet Bill and his mother who arrive on the bus from Chicago.

The daily routine of a little school girl.

A lion who hides in a deer’s cave tries to deceive the deer in believing that the cave talks.

DeCaprio, Annie. ONE, TWO. Grosset, 1965.
A counting book told in rhymes.

Willie meets a whale and they exchange information on their homes and living conditions concluding with “You can’t live up here and I can’t live down here.”


How a huge and tiny creature search hard to find something they might have in common.

A little boy and girl dressed up in their parent’s clothes, go around asking questions about the uses of common everyday objects.

Derman, Sarah. EASY-TO-READ BOOKS. Benefic, 1962.
Animal stories with humorous content. Listed in order of difficulty.
- PRETTY BIRD.
- SURPRISE EGG.
- PONY RING.
- BIG TOP.
- MONKEY ISLAND.
- POKER DOG.

Dodworth, Dorothy. LOOK OUT, MRS. DODDLEPUNK! Scott, 1954.
A little girl pretends she is a mother taking her baby out for a stroll in the baby carriage.

The white family has amusing troubles with their twelve dogs.

Life centered stories, (listed under authors) that start with a vocabulary of 11 words.

The story of a baby bird who searches for an appropriate mother.

Aaron is an alligator of all seasons who is always ending up in disastrous situations.

All breeds of dogs are shown in amusing activities; such as having a dog party.

Sam, the owl, meets Gus, the firefly, who tricks until c’saster takes place.

Eggleston, Joyce. THINGS THAT GROW. Melmont, 1958.
Boys and girls are not the only ones who need air, sunlight and water in order to grow.

Elting, Mary. HOW THE ANIMALS GET TO THE ZOO. Grosset, 1964.
Pictures of all the animals in the zoo and stories of how they get there.

Elting, Mary. MISS POLLY'S ANIMAL SCHOOL. Grosset, 1961.
Miss Polly holds classes for animals who perform on TV. Many sound-color words such as bump, pop, and bang.

Emberley, Barbara. ONE WIDE RIVER TO CROSS. Prentice Hall, 1966.
Noah's animals march through this counting book to the tune of an old folk song.

A first introduction to the sun and stars. Illustrations and familiarity with concepts help unlock a few of the difficult words.

Erickson, Phoebe. JUST FOLLOW ME. Follett, 1980.
All the animals in the woods try to help lost Little Dog find his home; but it is the lamb who shows the way.

The old folktale told in simple language: trying to please everyone results in pleasing no one.

Evers, Helen and Alf. POKEY BEAR. Rand McNally, 1942.
An old favorite about Pokey Bear's family and how a swooping hawk changes things.

A classic alphabet picture book with colored woodcuts by the author.

A first horse story written by a famous horse story author.

The ringmaster of a traveling circus watches Little Black perform tricks and offers to star him in the circus.

A child's varied experiences with the power of the sun.

Fehr, Howard. FIVE IS FIVE. Holt Rinehart, 1963.
A counting book of everyday objects.

Eric introduces his circus performing family from the youngest to the oldest.

Finfer, Celentha. GRANDFATHER DEAR. Follett, 1968.
When a child and her grandfather decide to surprise Grandmother by baking an upside-down cake for her, many unforeseen complications turn up.

Finfer, Celentha. GRANDMOTHER DEAR. Follett, 1966.
Grandma skates, slides, swings, and her activities are portrayed with humorous pictures.

The classic adventures of Angus the scottie and his encounter with ducks.

Flack, Marjorie. ASK MR. BEAR. Macmillan, 1932.
A little boy, who is searching for a present for his mother's birthday asks all the animals in the woods for a suggestion.

Using the familiar experience of a child's ride in a car, the book shows how much there is to see if you "keep your eyes open."

Foster, Joanna. PETE'S PUDDLE. Houghton Mifflin, 1950.
All the fun that can be found in a puddle.

Fox, Charles. COME TO THE CIRCUS. Reilly Lee, 1960.
At the circus, Peter wants to pet the large snake and Barbara wants to ride the white horse.

Fox, Charles. OPIE POSSUM'S TRICK. Reilly Lee, 1968.
Opie finds out that even though other animals can't perform tricks with their tails as he does, they all have unique tricks to perform.

Photographs and story of a farm pony who joins the circus.

How nature prepares for the coming of winter.

The simple secrets of nature unfold as the reader strolls through field and forest on a summer day.

Photos and brief text describing the winter living habits of animals.

Friskey, Margaret. INDIAN TWO FEET AND HIS EAGLE FEATHER. Childrens, 1967.
In trying to earn his eagle feather, a small Indian boy thinks of man-sized feats. But it is a threat to his home that finally gives him a chance to display bravery.

Friskey, Margaret. INDIAN TWO FEET AND HIS HORSE. Childrens, 1959.
A small Indian boy finds that thinking, instead of walking, can help him find a horse of his own.

Friskey, Margaret. MYSTERY OF THE FARMER'S THREE FIVES. Childrens, 1965.
A farmer and his family find that it is easier to keep track of their animals if they know how to count.

Friskey, Margaret. MYSTERY OF THE GATE SIGN. Childrens, 1958.
Rackety Rabbit and his brothers are puzzled by a simple three word gate sign until they miraculously learn to read it.

Gag, Wanda. THE ABC BUNNY. CowardMcCann, 1933.
Another classic alphabet book told in rhyme about a little bunny.

A folk story with much repetition and rhythm.

Brief speculations as to where insects, animals and fish go when it rains.

"No school today" says Cindy as she seeks out her pets and farm animals.

Written in short rhymes, a little girl asks all the animals to help her find a missing shoe.

Gertie the duck, who likes to be near people, has many problems caused by building her nest in the middle of the city.

Green, Mary. IS IT HARD? IS IT EASY? Scott, 1960.
What is hard for one child to do, is easy for another.

Greene, Carla. "I WANT TO BE" BOOKS. Childrens Press.
Concept building books for a better understanding of the world.

I WANT TO BE A COWBOY. 1960
I WANT TO BE A DAIRY FARMER. 1957
I WANT TO BE A FARMER. 1959
I WANT TO BE A HOMEMAKER. 1961

Andrew finds his brother in a most unexpected place.

Guilfoile, Elizabeth. NOBODY LISTENS TO ANDREW. Follett, 1957.
Nobody pays attention to Andrew as he tries to tell them that there is a bear in his bed.

The king loved to eat cheese, but so did all the mice.

The familiar activities of a typical first grade classroom; black and white photographs.

Captain Murphy's one tugboat gradually increases to a fleet of ten; adding new colors with each addition.

A book for identification of familiar objects through pictures and words.

Activity suggestions for all kinds of days; each geared to a different type of weather.

The new school built for the farm children seems just right until more people move into the area and change it.
Hastings, Evelyn. PEARL GOES TO SCHOOL. Follett, 1962.
All the children in the school learn how to care for a pet rabbit when Pearl visits school.
A poetic and simple look at the wonders of the moon.
Hawkinson, John and Lucy. DAYS I LIKE. Whitman, 1965.
Each month has a full-color illustration, with one line of text, of a child's activity special to the month.
Some of the unique aspects of modern city living depicted in colorful illustrations and simple text.
A child asks "Who lives in the woods?" and discovers answers.
Peter and small brother Davy's shopping expedition ends with a unique birthday gift for their mother.
How a horse who is allergic to roses stops a robbery because of a sneezing fit.
Five children take a walk along a city street and read the signs and numbers on streets, stores and houses.
A special birthday present which not only brings a little red car to a boy, but also friendship with other boys who have cars.
The tale of the Ugly Duckling retold in primer vocabulary.
* Hillert, Margaret. THE LITTLE RUNAWAY. Follett, 1966.
All the adventures of a runaway kitten.
* Hillert, Margaret. THE MAGIC BEANS. Follett, 1966.
A favorite folktale told in simple vocabulary.
Another favorite folktale retold in primer vocabulary.
Amusing pictures and simple text of the Billy Goats Gruff tale.
The classic nursery story told in just 34 preprimer words.
A little boat drifts down a river and is found by a boy who takes it home.
The amusing experiences of Kim the giraffe and Hickory the elephant.
BIO AND LITTLE.
HICKORY DANCES.
HICKORY IS LOST.
A WEEK WITH KIM AND HICKORY.
All the different types of transportation from tricycles to planes for getting somewhere.
A funny bird cannot find the ocean until he lands on a lady's hat and discovers that she is going on an ocean trip.
Chester, a wild horse who longs to be loved and cared for, has many adventures until some cowboys recognize his real worth.
Sammy's boredom with the zoo makes him set out to see how other people live.
How a boy's skill with a baseball helps him win friends in a new neighborhood.
Shows how mother, father, and the children working together create a happy home life.
Important people in the school.


Holland, Marion. A BIG BALL OF STRING. Random, 1958. A little boy has some unusual adventures with a plain ball of string.


Hurd, Edith T. NO FUNNY BUSINESS. Harper, 1962. When the family goes on a picnic, Carl the cat stays home and pretends he is on a picnic.

Hurd, Edith T. STOP STOP. Harper, 1961. Miss Mugs, who likes to wash everything, gets a surprise when Suzie the elephant decides to wash things too.


DAN FRONTIER AND THE NEW HOUSE.

DAN FRONTIER AND THE BIG CAT.

DAN FRONTIER GOES HUNTING.

Hutchins, Pat. ROSIE'S WALK. Macmillan, 1968. Rosie the hen goes for a walk unaware that a fox is on her heels. Unwittingly, she leads him into one disaster after the other.


Jardine, Maggie. I NEED. Grosset, 1968. "Birds don't need shoes for walking, flow- ers don't need milk for growing, but I do," says a child as he perceives himself in the world about him.

Jardine, Maggie. UP AND DOWN. Grosset, 1935. Variations in word and picture on the old saying, "What goes up must come down."


Kaufman, Joe. BIG AND LITTLE. Golden, 1966. Large colored pictures with brief text of big and little animals, things, and people.


Kaufman, Joe. THE TOY BOOK. Golden, 1965. Everyday activities incorporating the names of all the colors.

Kaune, Merriman. MY OWN LITTLE HOUSE. Follett, 1957. A child tells how he paints a house and what interesting variations he can make.

Keats, Ezra. JENNIE'S HAT. Harper, 1966. Jennie's drab hat is trimmed by her friends the birds, enroute to church.

Keats, Ezra. THE SNOWY DAY. Viking, 1962. Small Peter leaves a trail of footprints in the snow as he plays outdoors.


Kerr, Sue Felt. HERE COMES WEEZIE. Whitman, 1967. A simple story depicting all the aspects of warm family relationships.


INDEPENDENT READING FOR FIRST GRADES: A LISTING

An introduction to basic shapes: circles, squares and triangles with amusing comparisons and questions.
A shopping trip and a ride on the big red bus; complete with sounds, sights and feelings.
When snow covers everything and daddy has to stay home from work, there are many special delights for a child.
A rhymed-verse story of a little boy who finds out that many animals can do what he does. Comparisons and much imagination.
The contrasting daily activities of a small boy and a new sister.
Jack is forced to give up his stray duck. An unexpected breakdown of the horn on the tow truck changes the situation.
Concepts of round and square are expressed through the pencil in the hand of a small boy.
Many amusing things happen to Mr. Pine, the sign painter, when he loses his glasses.
Mabel leaves the ocean to live in an aquarium. Based on a real incident at Marineland.
Extravagant humor built around the familiar problem of minding baby brother.
An old folk tale retold in simple language.
The two Billy Brown stories in this book are about the everyday responsibilities of "minding baby" while trying to carry on the usual boy activities.
Koch, Dorothy. GONE IS MY GOOSE. Holiday, 1955.
An amusing tale characterized by interesting language structure which might appeal to some first graders.
A day's activity at the beach with brother, sister and parents.
Koch, Dorothy. LET IT RAIN. Holiday, 1959.
On a visit to Grandfather's farm, Tim forgets to close the gate and the cows get out. Getting them back by himself is full of suspense.
Two best friends, Jerry and his dog Ami, grow up together.
Margaret likes to play cowboys everyday and wear a cowboy hat. But when she receives a beautiful hat covered with flowers, her life suddenly changes.
A little boy grows bigger on each page until he is big enough to experience a special surprise.
About a tiny girl who grows bigger on each succeeding page.
Mother guesses and guesses at what can be inside the strange bundle until a familiar head appears.
All about a little boy and his unshakeable confidence about a carrot seed he planted.
A little boy says goodnight to everything around him.


All the small animals in the woods start sniffing and running. It's the first flower of spring growing in the snow.


The story of a little egg that just got sat on, until one day, pop! out it came, a little chicken.


Little rhymes about familiar things. "Pick, pick, pick, I'm a little chick."


Shapes and pictures mean different things to different people.


There is a surprise at the end of the track when all the farm animals get on the trolley for an exciting ride.


Jonathan James is just like everyone else until that special day when he goes to school.


Brian Wildsmith's colorful illustrations enhance this familiar fable retold in simple text.


Nonsense verses and pictures describe objects from A to Z in rhythmic rhymes such as "Apple Pie, tidy, tidy, tidy.


Cartoon-like pictures and nonsense narrative encourage reading.


How a tiny baby brother grows bigger and bigger.


Davy finds out that it is as much fun to take care of his dog Spot as it is to play with him.


Davy's dog Spot visits school to the delight of all the children.


Everyday family fun and daily life.


A surprise birthday party for Davy.


An old folk rhyme told in humorous nonsense couplets.


Easy rhymes and simple melodies dramatize process of "growing up".


The fantastic adventures of a boy who wishes so powerfully that he outwishes any child ever heard of.


Three comical animals have a contest to see who can pile the most apples on their heads until some bears come along.


Pictures provide clues to all the suspenseful situations described in rhyming verses.


Fat Cat's four kittens have to go because they are too mischievous. Then the Dooley family has the problem of selecting one kitten.


Joey is a baby kangaroo who gives up his mother's warm pocket in order to see the world, finds a variety of pockets everywhere.


Somedays you can't do anything right!


Lucille, a farmer's horse, goes to a tea party.


The animal with all the spots is so versatile that his request to be placed in the zoo is denied. He is offered a more exciting place for demonstrating his skills.


All the happy things that summer brings
are told through the activities of a girl, boy and their dog.

MacBean, Dilla. PICTURE BOOK DIC-
The unusual feature is that all the key
words in the sample sentences are basic
words that can be looked-up in this dic-
tionary.

MacDonald, Golden. RED LIGHT GREEN
LIGHT. Doubleday, 1944.
All about the cars, people and animals
who stop at the traffic light during any
day.

MacDonald, Golden. WHISTLE FOR THE
A little black train's whistles give safety
warnings to animals, children and grown-
ups.

MacKay, Donald. IF YOU WERE A
CLOWN. Heineman, 1965.
A fantasy tour of the circus, which in-
vites the child to color, paint and even
trace.

Martin, Bill. THE BRAVE LITTLE IN-
All the animals an Indian boy meets when
he ventures out to look for a bear.

Martin, Bill. BROWN BEAR, BROWN
BEAR, WHAT DO YOU SEE? Holt Rine-
hart, 1967.
Animals and colors are described in rhym-
ing refrains.

Martin, Bill. DAVID WAS MAD. Holt
Rinehart, 1967.
Dealing with the common experience of
a young child's anger until Grandma says,
"Anger is like wet paint, it rubs off on
everybody who touches it."

Martin, Bill. LITTLE PRINCESS GOOD-
A fantasy about a little princess who puts
the unicorn, dragon and peacock to bed
and a little mouse who wakes them up.

Martin, Bill. WEATHER. Holt Rinehart,
1967.
Double-page illustrations accompanied by
short phrases describe all aspects of the
weather.

Martin, Bill. WHICH DO YOU CHOOSE?
Every page holds many choices for the
reader. First book for encouraging deci-
sion making.

Martin, Dick. THE APPLE BOOK. Golden,
1964.

Full page illustrations of fruits. The short
descriptive sentences are excellent aids for
building sight vocabulary.

• Martin, Dick. THE SAND PAIL BOOK.
About boxes, baskets and other places
to put things.

McCall, Edith. BUTTERNUT BILL SE-
RIES. Benefic, 1965.
• BUTTONS AT THE ZOO.
• BUTTONS SEES THINGS THAT GO.
BUCKY BUTTON.
• BUTTONS AND THE WHIRLYBIRD.
• BUTTONS TAKES A BOAT RIDE.
• BUTTONS AND THE PET PARADE.

• McClintock, Mike. WHAT HAVE I GOT?
The rhyming text describes all the things
that can be found in a small boy's pocket.

McIntire, Alta. PICTURE DICTIONARY.
Follett, 1959.
The pictures in this beginner's dictionary
illustrate basic words in the primary vo-
cabulary.

McKie, Roy and P. D. Eastman. SNOW.
A happy and spirited story of two chil-
dren and their dog playing in the first
snow of the year.

McNulty, Faith. ARTY THE SMARTY.
Grosset, 1962.
Arty, a little fish, is called smarty because
of the many clever things he can do until
the day a whale comes along.

Meeker, Alice. HOW DOCTORS HELP US.
Doctors do many different kinds of work,
but they all work together to keep a
community healthy.

Meeks, Esther. THE CURIOUS COW.
Follett, 1960.
Farmer Green and his curious cow.

Meeks, Esther. THE HILL THAT CREW.
Follett, 1959.
ELENLENTARY

The story of a town that helps two boys find a place for using their new sleds.

Meeks, Esther. IN JOHN’S BACK YARD. Follett, 1957.
John discovers that his back yard is full of interesting things when he goes hunting for a lost ball with his father.

Alice and her mother find a surprise at the zoo, a children’s zoo with baby animals.

Peter shouts, “You shouldn’t push, be rude or unkind!” when he sees a big bear push a little bear.

Merrill, Jean. THE ELEPHANT WHO LIKED TO SMASH SMALL CARS. Random, 1967.
Every time a small car came along, the elephant smashed it. Then one day a big car came along and changed everything.

Simple introductions to community services.

YOU VISIT A FIRE STATION—POLICE STATION.
YOU VISIT A BAKERY—PEANUT FACTORY.
Miller, Patricia and Iran Seligman. BABY ELEPHANT. Holt Rinehart, 1963.
All the characteristics of an elephant are woven into a surprising story.

A cat and dog are in constant mischief as they chase each other.

An introduction to the plant world; those on land and water and those we eat or use for clothing.

The role of community workers, starting with the most dramatic figures in a child’s world.

A glimpse of animal families at home inspires a child to reflect, “If I were a mother, that’s exactly what I’d do myself.”

Monroe, Marion and Cabell Greer. MY LITTLE PICTURE DICTIONARY. Scott Foresman, 1964.
The unique feature of this dictionary is that words are grouped in classifications according to functions and meanings.

Complete sentences illustrate familiar words.

Mr. Bumble, a quiet man, owns a quiet parrot until a small boy comes along and teaches the parrot to talk.

A humorous book filled with pleasant alliterations. Even though some parts might be difficult, a satisfying oral experience.

Mother Goose. HOUSE THAT JACK BUILT. Lothrop, 1968.
Rhythmic chants and refrains of a favorite classic.

A beautiful alphabet book that starts with “A is an ant.”

A small mystery with few words and unique story line.

Murphy, Sara. THE ANIMAL HAT SHOP. Follett, 1964.
Miss Hen and Miss Cat learn that they have to buy colorful hats in order to attract attention.

Murphy, Sara. BING-BANG PIG. Follett, 1964.
The story of a pig who grows too big for his little name and earns a big new name.

Murphy, Sara. THE ROLY POLY COOKIE. Follett, 1963.
A classic tale retold in contemporary style. Nobody can catch the roly poly cookie until he meets “the fat cat who just sat in the sun.”

How Tom and Janey give a surprise birthday party for their mother.
INDEPENDENT READING FOR FIRST GRADES: A LISTING

How the autumn season affects familiar animals and plants.

All about the homes of animals.

All about the many wonderful things that happen at night time.

All about the homes of animals.

Parsons, Virginia. RAIN. Doubleday, 1951.
How trees, flowers, small forest creatures, ships at sea and people rejoice when the rain falls.

Imaginative situations about all kinds of games using many action words, short rhyming sentences and large pictures.

Simple text and colorful pictures.

Each illustrated word is a familiar noun; used in simple sentences.

A beginning readers’ first collection of jokes and riddles accompanied by amusing illustrations.

Palazzo’s colorful drawings bring life to this familiar classic.

Simple text and colorful pictures.

Parker, Bertha. FALL IS HERE. Harper, 1953.
How the autumn season affects familiar animals and plants.

All about the homes of animals.

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All about the homes of animals.

All about the many wonderful things that happen at night time.

Imaginative situations about all kinds of games using many action words, short rhyming sentences and large pictures.
Some very simple, but basic, activities on the weather.

Pohl, Louis. IT’S REALLY NICE. Little, 1960.
A small story enumerating all the simple pleasures of life.

A small boy discovers many functions of the sun in his daily life.

The excitement of language is presented through antonyms: Karen discovers, “This is a whisper, this is a shout.”

All the aspects of family, both in size and relationship, seen through the eyes of a small child.

A child finds satisfaction in taking inventory of all the things he knows; he goes on with confidence to conclude that there are “lots of things ahead to be learned.”

The city of Chicago is brought to life through its parks, zoos, skyscrapers and museums: “Now towards the South.”

Redd, Mary. MY FIRST GOLDEN DICTIONARY. Golden, 1957.
Words in book represent familiar, everyday objects with short-sentence definitions.

Reid, Hale. MY PICTURE DICTIONARY. Cinn, 1963.
Unique for its categorization of words, dealing with toys, fruits, vegetables, weather, animals, numbers and families.

The king needs to learn to smile. Everyone in the kingdom presents him with gifts in hopes that he will smile.

Willie, the cat, gets lost and Peter looks, looks, and looks for him.

Exciting rhymes about all kinds of homes. “Anybody at home? Look in this hole. What can it be? That lives deep down? Under this tree?”

Ridlon, Marc. KITTENS AND MORE KITTENS. Follett, 1967.
Jennifer Joan wants a kitten, so she advertises throughout the whole neighborhood with interesting results.

Brief animal stories illustrated by well-known illustrators.
I AM A BUNNY, 1963.
I AM A FOX, 1967.

Each letter represents an animal illustrated in detail on a single page by an outstanding artist.

A barnyard filled with roosters, cows, rabbits, sheep, and other ordinary farm animals become extraordinary through Rojankovsky’s double-page illustrations.

A famous poet relates herself to young readers who have become aware of color.

In lively verse this book conveys a young child’s natural pride in his working body.

The tall man comes to babysit and entertains Anna with magic tricks all evening. She concurs in magic in her own way.

A tall man comes to babysit and entertains Anna with magic tricks all evening. She concurs in magic in her own way.

Anna views all the familiar sights of daily life from a different perspective when she rides around on top of a green hat on the head of the tall man.

INDEPENDENT READING FOR FIRST GRADES: A LISTING

Mama called it "rubbish" but Anna knew what wonderful things she could make from all the thrown-out "junk".


A small boy plays riddle games involving fantasy. "Somebody saw a frog with an umbrella. Was it an owl? No, not an owl. Guess again."


  A first book of things that go, especially appealing to boys.


Each page is crammed with typical Scarry animals, mailing letters, flying planes, building houses or other familiar activities.


Ellen, who is too young for school, visits for a day and learns what she is going to do next year.


Where is the best place for a little girl or boy to hide? Many likely or unlikely places, with disclosure of the best one.


How Billy discovers that he's not the only "littlest one".


A "go-to-sleep" book depicting the coming of night in the country, city, and at the seashore.


A person travels on a bicycle, bus, airplane or other ways. How do you think a kangaroo, rabbit, or mole travel?

Schelin, Miriam. SHAPES. William Scott, 1952.

All the various shapes that can be drawn with a pencil or crayon. Triangles, squares, circles and lines are described.


The beauty and fun of winter's white coat with varied pictures.


A language exploration of plurals with humor and nonsense rhymes typical of the title.


An excellent introduction to Sendak humor and illustrations dealing with two nursery rhymes told in few words.

Seuss, Dr. THE CAT IN THE HAT. Random, 1957.

All about the unpredictable cat who entertains two children on a rainy day.

Seuss, Dr. THE CAT IN THE HAT COMES BACK. Random, 1958.

How the Cat in the Hat returns for more exciting incidents.

Seuss, Dr. FOX IN SOCKS. Random, 1958.

A read-aloud tongue twister book that challenges both reading and speaking skills.

Seuss, Dr. ONE FISH TWO FISH RED FISH BLUE FISH. Random, 1960.

Known and unknown words build up rhymes which develop into humorous and impossible situations.

Seuss, Dr. GREEN EGGS AND HAM. Random, 1960.

Sam-I-Am persuades everyone, in a variety of ways, to try eating green eggs and ham.

Seuss, Dr. HOP ON POP. Random, 1963.

Rhyming words presented in humorous style.

Seuss, Dr. ONE FISH TWO FISH RED FISH BLUE FISH. Random, 1960.

Life-centered stories filled with excitement and mystery told with a limited vocabulary and short sentences.


Excellent first introductions to concept
Elementary English

building in the sciences. Many illustrations accompanied by one-sentence text.


Let's Find Out What's Big and What's Small, 1959.


Spilt milk can look like a tree, pig, or many other familiar things to an imaginative child.


The story of a construction shovel in its community activities.


The hats of policemen, mailmen, engineers and baseball players are unique; representing a community's various workers.


There are all kinds of buses, from A to Z, as described in short rhythmical verse.


How each of three mothers; a cat, dog and mother, have a new baby.


All the activities of summer time at the beach typical of children and their families.


Basic etiquette in familiar home and classroom settings, for the child who is becoming aware of the world around him.


Kenny has a friendly monkey who can do everything he and his friends do--except read!


Pictures of all kinds of dogs told in sixteen word stories.


A classic companion to Skaar's dog stories.


The very little dog with the very little bark eats all his food and drinks all his milk until what do you suppose happens?


The barnyard animals each have their distinctive language. Boys and girls can say them all—but lots more too.


A manners book written in good-natured humor. “Will never said excuse me when he made people jump; Because he shouted too loud or gave them a bump!”


Colorful pictures with one sentence captions unfold a story. Specific details in pictures help child interpret new words.


A child's world is described in terms of millions of familiar things. Repeated rhythmical language with surprise ending.


The characteristic actions of animals are compared with a child's in brief rhythmic phrases on each illustrated page.


Painted pictures can be anything at all. The main thing is that each picture painted is a little bit of the painter himself.


Play situations that promote early learning and recognition of simple quantities at a glance in developing numerical values.


Andy's funny adventures are illustrated in picture chapters with only captions, encouraging reader to tell the story in his own words.

INDEPENDENT READING FOR FIRST GRADES: A LISTING

All the familiar sounds of everyday life.
• Steiner, Charlotte. TIM AND TOM PLAY BALL. Macmillan, 1961.
Tim and Tom are excited and scared when they decide to look for their lost ball which has disappeared in Miss Small's strange apartment.
A favorite child's sport described in few words.
Skunk gets rabbit into lots of trouble with Woodchuck until Rabbit decides to think for himself.
The innocent looking rock that rabbit and Skunk choose as a resting place starts to make fierce roaring noises.
How Linda and Leo grow up in the zoo.
What would happen if everyone did exactly what everybody else did?
• Sullivan, Joan. ROUND IS A PANCAKE. Holt Rinehart, 1963.
All the exciting objects that have a round shape develop a child's awareness of form and shape in his daily environment.
Familiar and contemporary objects and actions from A to Z.
A little bird cures Mr. Barney of his lazy habit of sitting under the trees all day combing his beard.
All about clowns and their tricks. Labeled balloons encourage vocabulary independence. Black and white photographs.
Tensen, Ruth. COME TO THE PET SHOP. Reilly Lee, 1954.
Two boys select pets on their birthday.
• Tensen, Ruth. COME TO THE ZOO. Reilly Lee, 1948.
Full page photographs of zoo animals with brief text.
• Thorn, Samuel. LET'S GO. Benefic, 1964.
An introduction to science utilizing a child's immediate experiences and environment.
Big Bear raids campers' cars and the park restaurant for food with some misadventures. Based on an actual incident in a national park.
A number readiness book for reading and writing the numbers from one to ten.
Each page stands alone in this outstanding illustrated counting book.
A little girl finds that it is difficult to stay in bed with a cold.
Peter sees a big bear push a little bear so he does some thinking about pushing, rudeness and unkindness.
Childhood anger and moments of fickleness are not as strong as the habits of friendship as told with humor in this life-centered story.
Vaughan, Sam. NEW SHOES. Double-day, 1961.
A trip to the shoe store presents many decision problems when confronted with so many different kinds of shoes.
All kinds of hats; ridiculous, useful and even magic, are delightful clues to what people do and where they come from.
Many exciting events occur when a little girl dresses her kitty and takes it for a buggy ride through the neighborhood.
MOONBEAM IS CAUGHT
MOONBEAM AND THE CAPTAIN
MOONBEAM AND THE ROCKET FORT
SAILOR JACK
SAILOR JACK AND HOMER POTS
SAILOR JACK AND EDDY
SAILOR JACK AND BLUEBELL
SAILOR JACK AND BLUEBELL'S DRIVE
SAILOR JACK AND THE JET PLANE
A dictionary of sentences, phrases, and words dealing with the escapades of Little Mouse and his family.
Linda asks Peter, "What begins with A?" and they proceed through the whole alphabet.
This counting starts when Linda asks her older brother Peter, "What is one?"
How Jimmy resolves his problem of how to send his dog home from school.
• Webber, Helen. WORKING WHEELS. Holt Rinehart, 1967.
How a child "Reads" objects, people and signs before meeting the formal printed word.
A small bird discovers that there are many differences between baby birds as he journeys through the story.
Tale of some "verbivorous" mice who nibble all the biggest words off the page of the professor's book.
• Weiss, Daniel F. ONE WORD STORY-BOOK. Western Pub., 1967.
Twelve stories told by large comical pictures with one word captions.
Categorizing and generalization concepts are dramatized by this story of different kinds of neighbors in a neighborhood.
Animal alphabet book.
Wildsmith, Brian. BRIAN WILDSMITH'S 1, 2, 3'S. Watts, 1965.
A dramatically illustrated counting book which introduces a child to the concept of how the world is built up around the simple basic shapes of circles, triangles and rectangles.
• Williams, Garth. THE BIG GOLDEN ANIMAL ABC BOOK. Golden, 1967.
Full page illustrations of familiar animals with brief text.
• Wing, Henry. TEN PENNIES FOR CANDY. Holt Rinehart, 1963.
A counting book involving Scotty and his ten pennies as he invites friends to come to buy candy at the store.
Tommy, who is not very big, describes things that are bigger or smaller than himself. Excellent refrains.
Wise, Nancy. THE HAT THAT GREW. E. M. Hale, 1907.
Herbie's hat, which is too small for him, starts to grow after Herbie wishes for his hat to grow larger.
Timmy's older sister explains how she takes care of her little brother.
The old folktale retold with few words.
• Wolff, Janet and Bernard Owett. LET'S IMAGINE BOOKS. Dutton, 1961-3.
A series of books designed to stimulate children to think more creatively and become aware of the world around them.
LET'S IMAGINE BEING PLACES, 1961.
LET'S IMAGINE COLORS, 1963.
LET'S IMAGINE NUMBERS, 1964.
LET'S IMAGINE SOUNDS, 1962.
LET'S IMAGINE THINKING UP THINGS, 1961.
LET'S IMAGINE THINKING UP WORDS, 1962.
A picture story, with simple text, of color using everyday examples for investigating colors.
• Wondriska, William. 1, 2, 3, A BOOK TO SEE. Pantheon, 1959.
A picture book of numbers.
INDEPENDENT READING FOR FIRST GRADES: A LISTING

A long piece of string develops into an exciting tale, with much natural repetition.

Told in verse, a small boy discovers that the box and string playhouse he constructed is more fun when his creation is shared with others.

Who's afraid? Not Little Quack, though his brother ducks begin the day thinking he is timid.

Albert the box maker designs boxes of all shapes and sizes to suit different people and various uses.

How a person can change his clothes, face or mind and how the sun and wind can change things.

All about fire engines, trains, boats and all things that go. Large pictures with brief text.

The world of machines and tools and the people that use them.

Colorful pictures and simple language takes reader on a trip outside his home and town.

Ziner, Feenie. COUNTING CARNIVAL. Coward McCann, 1962.
A counting story that develops when a small boy, who is all alone states, "I just one, no fun."

A dialogue between a sister and younger brother. Continuous queries such as, "Do you know what I'll do at the party?" The sister furnishes her own answers to make her brother happy.

A small boy speculates on how glorious it would be not to have to share things.

Frisky puppy creates lots of confusion at home with his puppy habits to the consternation of his young owner until the day something happens.

A story of best friends who like "everything that's important about each other."

Everyone hopes that their daydreams will come true.