Recommended Easy Reader Books (Grades K – 2)
Curriculum Materials Center, David & Lorraine Cheng Library
William Paterson University

Easy Readers:

Easy readers are intended for children reading at a first or second grade level. Their standard format has a large font, short sentences, limited text per page, and at least one illustration on each double-page spread. The vocabulary may be controlled, and is generally limited to sight words, words of few syllables, and a familiar spoken vocabulary. Easy readers are often written as part of a series.

The following titles are available from the Curriculum Materials Center of the Cheng Library. Usually only one book by an author is listed. Since authors often write other books on the same reading level (and with the same characters), look for other titles by that author.

If the book belongs to a series, the series title is indicated in parentheses, e.g. (I Can Read). You may use the online catalog to find other books in that series.

Starting in 2006 the American Library Association began distributing the Theodor Seuss Geisel Award for "the most distinguished American book for beginning readers." Geisel Award winners and Honor books are designated (Geisel, year).

This list is divided into Levels A, B, C (Barstow, 2008):

Level A books usually have sentences with three to five single-syllable, easily recognizable words and the text is often in large print; illustrations usually take up two-thirds of each page.

Level B books have a balance between text and illustrations, more complex sentences, and more descriptors, phrases, and multi-syllabic words.

In Level C books, illustrative material is frequently reduced to alternating pages, there is more text, sentences are frequently compound, and vocabulary is more difficult.

Jill Bennett (1991) identifies the stages of early literacy, as First Steps (beginning stage), the Gaining Confidence (early-reading stage) and Taking Off (getting ready for bigger challenges).

References:

Call Number: [CMC-Reference] Z1037 .B278 2008

(not owned by Cheng Library).

Level A (First Steps)

   In prehistoric days there were many different kinds of dinosaurs, big and small, those with
   spikes and those with long, sharp teeth.
   **Call Number: Pj Bar**

   Little Bear has an adventure when he climbs inside a cardboard box and travels to town.
   (A Bright & Early Book).
   **Call Number: Pj Ber**

   A studious polar bear learns to become a friend to an inquisitive goose. (Geisel, 2006).
   **Call Number: Pj Blo**

   Two little boys meet at the beach, each sure that his balloon is better. (I Can Read).
   **Call Number: Pj Bon**

   A child has fun playing with some cats. (Rookie Reader).
   **Call Number: Pj Bri**

   Earl and Pearl do not want Chicken’s help in the garden until a swarm of grasshoppers
   arrives and her true talent shines. (I Can Read). (Geisel, 2009).
   **Call Number: Pj Gra**

   Black clouds bring lightning and thunder and finally, rain. (Rookie Reader).
   **Call Number: Pj Gre**

   A bear searches for his missing hat. (Geisel, 2012).
   **Call Number: Pj Kla**

   Pull the flaps in these three short stories about comparisons. (Geisel, 2013).
   **Call Number: Pj Lon**

   A large, spotted animal discovers he really belongs in a circus, not a zoo.
   (Beginner Books).
   **Call Number: Pj Lop**

   An alphabet chant about the alphabet trying to climb a coconut tree.
   **Call Number: Pj Mar**
A little boy goes to the doctor for a checkup. (Rookie Reader).
Call Number: Pj Mar

The dogs run, play and dig in the park. (Geisel, 2012).
Call Number: Pj Mei

To an imaginative bunny a box is not just a box. (Geisel, 2007).
Call Number: Pj Por

Children use their hands to get ready for a birthday party. (Rookie Reader).
Call Number: j612.98 Rau

A counting book that explores words within words. (Geisel, 2009).
Call Number: Pj See

Dog loves to play ball but must wait until someone will play. (Geisel, 2014).
Call Number: Pj Sul

Illustrations and text explore how the light that makes a house a home.
Call Number: Pj Swa

Piggie wants to play outside in the sun, but it’s a rainy day. (An Elephant & Piggie book).
(Geisel, 2009).
Call Number: Pj Wil

**Level B (Gaining Confidence)**

Buzz captures a fly to enter The Amazing Pet Show. His parents and the judges are proved wrong when they tell him that a fly cannot be a pet. (Cartwheel Books). (Geisel, 2006).
Call Number: Pj Arn

When a storm comes Rover needs to make room for other animals, including a skunk!
(Geisel, 2007).
Call Number: Pj Bea
The bear family has trouble finding a good spot for their picnic. (Beginner Books).  
**Call Number: Pj Ber**

Walrus is determined to identify a mysterious black spot in the snow. (I Can Read series).  
**Call Number: Pj Bon**

Four short stories about a big brother and his mixed feelings about his little brother, Anthony. (Viking Easy-to-Read).  
**Call Number: Pj Bya**

Cow friends Minnie and Moo enlist the other farm animals to dress up as Easter bunnies to surprise the farmer’s grandchildren. (I Can Read).  
**Call Number: Pj Caz**

Pearl’s anger and jealousy of her little brother evaporate in this story about pig siblings. (I Can Read).  
**Call Number: Pj Cho**

Information about our bodies, and some experiments to try. (All Aboard Reading).  
**Call Number: j612.86 Col**

A well-mannered little boy always asks to bring a friend—who are wild animals—and always well-behaved.  
**Call Number: Pj DeR**

Each riddle features the sun, stars, moon, planets, and space travel. (Puffin Easy-to-Read).  
**Call Number: j818.54 Hal**

Two little mice trespass to find out about their new neighbor. (A Toon Book). (Geisel, 2010).  
**Call Number: Pj Hay**

When Kitten mistakes the full moon for a bowl of milk, she ends up tired, wet, and hungry trying to reach it.  
**Call Number: Pj Hen**
Arthur the chimpanzee worries that his Halloween costume won’t be scary enough.
(I Can Read).
**Call Number: Pj Hob**

Danny visits a museum and has an adventure with a dinosaur. (I Can Read).
**Call Number: Pj Hof**

Pete the cat loves the buttons on his shirt so much he makes up a song about them.
(Geisel, 2013).
**Call Number: Pj Lit**

Two friends share experiences in each season of the year. (I Can Read).
**Call Number: J Lob**

Two lizards try to outdo each other. The loser fails because he tries to turn the colors of a comic strip. (I Can Read).
**Call Number: Pj Lop**

The tiny bumblebee bat answers questions about his looks, food and habits. (Geisel, 2008).
**Call Number: j599.4 Lun**

Fox tries to earn the money for a new bicycle doing different jobs. (Dial Easy-to-Read).
**Call Number: Pj Mar**

Beatrice doesn’t like books or libraries until she discovers the children’s room.
(An Easy-Read Story Book).
**Call Number: Pj Num**

When Amelia Bedelia helps out at her doctor’s office, nothing goes right until she treats the impatient patients.
**Call Number: J Par**

Crocodile loves to eat watermelon but gets scared when he swallows a seed.
(Geisel, 2014).
**Call Number: Pj Piz**
When Henry and his dog Mudge go to visit Great-Grandpa Bill in the home with other grandpas, they lead them all on a wonderful adventure. (Ready-to-Read). (Geisel, 2006).
**Call Number: Pj Ryl**

Turkey vultures soar in the air, looking for their next stinky feast. These birds don’t hunt—they like their food already dead and are part of nature’s clean-up crew. (Geisel, 2008).
**Call Number: j598.9 Say**

Simple text and photographs show what happens to animals and plants in winter. (Investigate the Seasons).
**Call Number: j508.2 Sch**

While Mother is gone, the children are busily working when the Cat in the Hat returns to create havoc and fun. (Beginner Books).
**Call Number: Pj Seu**

Nate the Great finds mystery at the beach when Oliver’s beach bag vanishes. (A Break-of-Day Book).
**Call Number: Pj Sha**

A child watches the rain on the window and in the streets and tells how it falls all around.
**Call Number: Pj Shu**

Little Mouse gets dressed to go to the barn. (A Toon Book). (Geisel, 2010).
**Call Number: Pj Smi**

Amanda and her family and friends try to find different ways to beat the heat. (Dial Easy-to-Read). (Geisel, 2006).
**Call Number: Pj Van**

**Level C (Taking Off)**

During his visit to an aquarium, a boy finds out about many marine and freshwater creatures.
**Call Number: j597.007 Ali**
Four short stories about two friends who disagree about what to do during their sleepover. (Geisel, 2013).
**Call Number:** Pj Bel

A child’s sense of security is threatened by the arrival of a stepmother and the destruction of the old red barn on the family’s farm.
**Call Number:** J Bun

Follow the wolfsnail as it hunts for other snails to eat. (Geisel, 2009).
**Call Number:** j594 Cam

Louanne and Arnie practice together for tryouts, with surprising results.
**Call Number:** Pj Car

This imaginative class trip takes the class in a raindrop from a cloud, downstream to a water filtration plant, into a water tower, and back through water pipes to the school.
**Call Number:** Pj Col

Mr. Watson’s usual Saturday drive with his pig, Mercy, becomes unusual when an unexpected passenger shows up and Mercy gets behind the wheel. (Geisel, 2007).
**Call Number:** J DiC

Two roller-skating friends share three funny adventures. (Geisel, 2011).
**Call Number:** J DiC

Information about trains, past and present, with types of engines and cars.
**Call Number:** j625.1 Gib

An upbeat note from his teacher turns a miserable day into one of joy for a second grader.
**Call Number:** Pj Gif

Penny takes a beautiful blue marble from Mrs. Goodwin’s lawn and then feels guilty. (Geisel, 2014).
**Call Number:** Pj Hen

Questions and answers about rabbits, guinea pigs, hamsters and gerbils. (Dial Easy-to- Read).
**Call Number:** j636.932 Hol

**Call Number:** J Kva


**Call Number:** Pj Lin


**Call Number:** Pj Mar


**Call Number:** Pj McM


**Call Number:** j508.2 Roc


**Call Number:** J Sch


**Call Number:** j597.96 Sel


**Call Number:** J Sil


**Call Number:** Pj Yee

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