

## Books, Books, and Now 100 More Books!

Kumon has released a new read-aloud book list for 7A-3A Reading Levels that parents can use to select books to read to their young children. Reading aloud daily helps young children acquire the prerequisite skills they need to eventually learn how to read independently. A child also needs to possess a sense of numbers when entering school in order to be successful in learning math. Kumon parents are in a unique position to be able to take advantage of this great opportunity to influence the future success of their children in school. How can this be done?

Ask your Kumon Instructor for a copy of the Recommended Reading List that now contains 100 Read-Aloud Books for very young children, and READ READ READ to your child! We have selected a variety of topics, authors and illustrators to captivate the interest of our many students and parents. In other words, this collection offers something for everyone. There are books that teach, others that entertain. There are award winners and books with illustrations that are so beautiful you will want to give them a permanent home on your own bookshelf. On this list of 100 favorites, you will find books that will introduce your child to the alphabet, counting, best-loved stories and classic tales. Approximately half of these 100 children's books are written in rhyme. Many also have a chant-like rhythm about them. Still others employ repetition throughout the book (e.g. The House That Jack Built) because these children's authors understand that rhyme, rhythm and repetition are the 3 R's that enhance children's awareness of the sound patterns of speech that children need to possess before they can learn how to read.

Use the book list to select books that expose your child to the alphabet. Some books offer a simple introduction to it such as Alligators All Around. Others, such as Old Black Fly, present the alphabet in chant-like rhyme, while other books such as A My Name is Alice offer a closer look at words that begin with each letter of the alphabet. Select books that play with language such as those by Dr. Seuss and encourage your child to have fun with words.

There's even a math slant to the list. You can expose your child to numbers in much the same way as you do to the alphabet. Mother Goose MATH offers lessons in counting, addition and multiplication. Other books on this list introduce numbers in very creative ways, e.g. Ten Black Dots (1 to 10) and Bat Jamboree (1 to 55). Some books go beyond counting and expose children to mathematical concepts. Ten Terrible Dinosaurs presents subtraction, Each Orange Had 8 Slices introduces multiplication, The Doorbell Rang introduces division, Sea Squares introduces squaring numbers, and One Grain of Rice conveys the power of doubling.

Be creative. Use your imagination. Seize every opportunity to immerse your child in rich literature. Let books take your child around the world. Read books such as Strega Nona which is set in Italy, The Empty Pot in China, The Gigantic Turnip in Russia and One Grain of Rice in India. Books can be used for information, teaching a lesson, and pure enjoyment. Reading to your child is an investment in his or her future. Investing in the early years of your child's life is critical because much of the emotional and intellectual wiring of a child's brain takes place before he or she enters kindergarten. By reading to your child every day, you also can teach him or her that learning is fun and books are friends to revisit again and again and again.

If you have any questions, comments, or suggestions about this topic, please contact me at [mr.jose@kumonofgilbert.com](mailto:mr.jose@kumonofgilbert.com).

Note from the editor:

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