# 'Finding Great Math in Great Books’ 

The Early Math Collaborative Erikson Institute

"We believe that using a good book or story assures that children will be engaged and creates a shared experience that can be discussed and analyzed."

## Big Ideas of Early Mathematics



MathRack also believes in connecting text to the math experience to enhance children's understanding of mathematizing their world. We have created this list of books suggested by the Early Math Collaborative resources as a quick guide for you to use with your instruction. For more information about the books and in many cases lessons to accompany them please visit: https://earlymath.erikson.edu

## Join the Collaborative for valuable information and recent research to empower your teaching. https://earlymath.erikson.edu/join/

## Math - Literacy Connection

## Sets...Sorts, Sorting and Categorizing

BIG IDEAS"Sets are basic to children's thinking and learning. Sets are also basic to our number system. Counting requires a set, and as a result, the properties of sets have a large influence on the number system, and on mathematics."

A Lost Button by Arnold Lobel (from Frog and Toad Are Friends)
A Mother for Choco by Keiko Kaza
*A Pair of Socks by Stuart Murphy
Five Creatures by Emily Jenkins
Goldilocks and the Three Bears

Is it Larger? Is it Smaller? by Tana Hoban
Is Your Mama a Llama? Deborah Guarino
Shapes, Shapes, Shapes by Tana Hoban
Shoes, Shoes, Shoes by Ann Morris
The Three Pigs

## Number Sense

BIG IDEAS "Numbers are used in many ways, some more mathematical than others. Quantity is an attribute of a set of objects and we use numbers to name specific quantities. The quantity of a small collection can be intuitively perceived without counting."
"The key to identifying better number books is to look for illustrations in which numbers are meaningfully associated with objects or events so that cardinal amount is emphasized—and of course it helps if the book is fun, beautiful or otherwise engaging!"

Anno's Counting Book by Mistusmo Anno
Count and See by Tana Hoban
Splash by Ann Jonas
Ten Black Dots by Donald Crews

## Counting

BIG IDEAS"Counting can be used to find out "how many" in a collection. Counting has rules that apply to any collection."

A Frog in a Bog by Karma Wilson
*Baby Goes to Market by Atinuke (2018 winner)
*Caps for Sale by Esphyr Slobodkina
*Count Me In! by Cynthia Weill
*Count the Monkeys by Mac Barnett (honor title)
*Count to a Million by Jerry Pallotta
*Dog's Colorful Day by Emma Dodd
*Doorbell Rang by Pat Hutchins
Fish Eyes by Lois Ehlers
Five Little Monkeys by Eileen Christelow
From Head to Toe by Eric Carle (body movement)
*How Big is a Million by David Schwartz
*Max's Math by Kate Banks (advanced counting)
*One Big Pair of Underwear by Laura Gehl (advanced counting)
One Gorilla by A. Morozumi
One Stuck Duck by Phyllis Root
Over the Meadow

* Sheep Won't Sleep by Judy Cox (advanced counting)

Ten in Bed by Penny Dale
*Ten Little Fish by Audrey Wood
Ten, Nine, Eight by Molly Bang
This Jazz Man by Karen Ehrdhart
*Count the Monkeys by Mac Barnett (honor title)
10 Minutes till Bedtime by Peggy Rathman

## Number Operations

BIG IDEAS-"Sets can be changed by adding items (joining) or by taking some away (separating) Sets can be compared using the attribute of numerosity, and ordered by more than, less than, and equal to. A quantity (whole) can be decomposed into equal or unequal parts; the parts can be composed to form the whole.
' Many books support the close relationship between counting and number operations.
They can help children understand that number operations are an efficient way to countas the quantity grows, it is much easier to count on that to count one-by-one.'

*Balancing Act by Ellen Stoll Walsh<br>Five Creatures by Emily Jenkins<br>Hippos Go Berserk by Sandra Boynton<br>More, Fewer, Less by Tana Hoban<br>Mouse Count by Ellen Stoll Walsh<br>Ones is a Snail, Ten is a Crab by April Pulley Sayre<br>Over in the Meadow<br>*Twelve Ways to Get to Eleven by Eve Merriam

## Patterns

BIG IDEAS-" Patterns are sequences (repeating or growing) governed by a rule; they exist both in the world and in mathematics. Identifying the rule of a pattern brings predictability and allows us to make generalizations. The same pattern can be found in many forms.
'Many well-loved children's books incorporate pattern because it supports young children's literacy development. Children use language and picture patterns to 'read' predictable books. They often use or extend language patterns from books in their own story dictation. Patterns support children to predict what will happen next in a story. These literacy skills overlap with a mathematical understanding of pattern, and you will want to, at times, shift your read-aloud objectives to focus on the math.'

Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You See? by Bill Martin Jr. I Went Walking by Sue Williams
Lots and Lots of Zebra Stripes: Patterns in Nature by Stephen R. Swinburne Pattern Bugs by Trudy Harris
Rooster's Off to See the World by Eric Carle
The Napping House by Audrey Wood

## Measurement

BIG IDEAS 'Many different attributes can be measured, even when measuring a single object. All measurement involves a 'fair' comparison. Quantifying a measurement helps us describe and compare more precisely!'
*A Million Fish... More or Less by Patricia C. McKissack,
Actual Size by Steve Jenkins
*Blue Sea by Robert Kalan
*Balancing Act by Ellen Stoll Walsh
Carrot Seed by Ruth Krauss
*Growing Story by Ruth Krauss
*Inch by Inch by Leo Lionni
*Is it Larger? Is it Smaller? by Tana Hoban
*Just a Little Bit by Ann Tompert
*Life Size Zoo: From Tiny Rodents to Gigantic Elephants, An Actual-Size Animal Encyclopedia by Teruyuki Komiya
*Line Up Book by Marisabina Russo
*One Bean by Anne Rockwell
Next to an Ant by Mara Rockliff
Prehistoric Actual Size by Steve Jenkins
*Strega Nona by Tomie dePaola
Tall by Jez Alborough

* Three Feet Small by Michael Rosen

Tikki Tikki Tembo by Arlene Mosel
The Growing Story by Ruth Krauss
Where's My Teddy by Jez Alborough

## Data Analysis

BIG IDEAS - " The purpose of collecting data is to answer questions when the answers are not immediately obvious. Data must be represented in order to be interpreted, and how data are gathered and organized depends on the question. It is useful to compare parts of the data and to draw conclusions about the data as a whole."
'Books that inspire children to think about data are often nonfiction. Any text that helps bring the complexity of the real world into the classroom can be a rich springboard for data collection and analysis.'

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## Spatial Relationships

BIG IDEAS Relationships between objects and places can be described with mathematical precision. Our own experiences of space and two-dimensional representations of space reflect a specific point of view. Spatial relationships can be visualized and manipulated mentally."
'Spatial thinking is critical for building subtilizing skills and more advanced counting strategies.'

Acka Backa Boo collected by Opal Dunn
*Big Bug by Henry Cole
Block City by Daniel Kirk's illustrated version of Robert Louis Stevenson's poem
Building a House by Byron Barton
Changes, Changes by Pat Hutchins
*Elephants Aloft by Kathi Appelt
*Flotsam by David Wiesner
*Follow That Map! by Scot Ritchie
From Here to There by Maria Cuyler
Going on a Bear Hunt
Henry's Map by David Elliot
Houses and Homes by Ann Morris
*Katie and The Big Snow by Virginia Burton
*Lucy in the City: A Story About Developing Spatial Thinking by Julie Dillemuth
Me on the Map by Joan Sweeney
*Over, Under and Through by Tana Hoban
*Piggies in the Pumpkin Patch by Mary Peterson and Jennifer Rofe
Rosie's Walk by Pat Hutchins
*Shrinking Mouse by Pat Hutchins
Skip Across the Ocean collected by Floella Benjamin
*The Secret Birthday Message by Eric Carle
The Village of Round Houses and Square Houses by Anna Grifalcone
*Up, Down, Around by Nadine Bernard Westcott
*We're Going on a Ghost Hunt by Marcia Vaughan
Where Do I Live? by Neil Chesnow

* Which is Round? Which is Bigger by Mineko Marmada
*Yellow Ball by Molly Bang
* You Are (Not) Small by Christopher Weyant


## Shape Geometry

BIG IDEAS-Shapes can be defined and classified by their attributes. The flat faces of solid (three dimensional) shapes are two-dimensional shapes. Shapes can be combined and separated (composed and decomposed) to make new shapes.
'Shapes are all around us.'

Color Farm by Lois Ehlert
Color Zoo by Lois Ehlers
Changes, Changes by Pat Hutchins
Grandfather Tang's Story by Ann Tompert
Grandpa's Quilt by Betsy Franco
I Read Signs by Tana Hoban
I Spy Shapes in Art by Lucy Micklethwait
Mouse Shapes by Ellen Stoll Walsh
Round is a Mooncake: A book of Shapes by Roseanne Thong and Grace Lin
Shapes, Shapes, Shapes by Tana Hoban
When a Line Bends....A Shape Begins by Rhonda Greene
Whoo? Whoo? by David Carter
Woof Woof by David Carter

## Algebraic Thinking

'When someone says something like algebra begins in pre-kindergarten (or before), immediately others may begin to question their sanity. But the foundations of algebraic thinking do begin with core concepts that take shape early, such as comparing and ordering objects or patterns and the rules they are governed by.' EMC

*I Know an Old Lady Who Swallowed a Fly by Mary Ann Hoberman<br>*Is it Red? Is it Yellow? Is it Blue? by Tana Hoban<br>*Napping House by Audrey Wood<br>*Rooster's Off to See the World by Eric Carle


[^0]:    *Anno's Flea Market by Mitsumasa Anno
    Apples by Gail Gibbons
    *Birds by Kevin Henkes
    *How Many Snails?: A Counting Book by Paul Giganti Jr.
    Pete the Cat by Eric Litwin
    Shoes, Shoes, Shoes by Ann Morris
    The Best Part of Me: Children Talk about Their Bodies in Pictures and Words by Wendy Ewald
    *Tiger Math: Learning to Graph from a Baby Tiger by Ann Whitehead Nagda and Cindy Bickel
    Which Would You Rather Be? by William Steig
    Whose Shoes? A Shoe for Every Job by Stephen Swinburne
    Whose Shoes Are These? A Look at Workers' Footwear-Slippers, Sneakers, and Boots by Laura Salas

