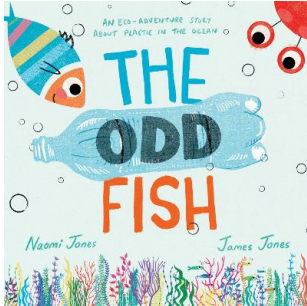


## A selection of books especially selected for children in Reception classes (4-5 year olds) of average reading ability for the 2021/22 academic year.

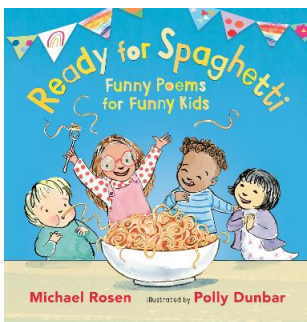
If your child is a competent reader or has read all these titles then try the books from the Year 1 list. Our overall mission is to promote reading for pleasure with quality texts that are perfectly pitched for the age group and the curriculum. We have particularly avoided blockbusters, classic or set texts, known to everyone, so that we can include poetry, stunning information texts and inspirational books in which all children and young people can find themselves reflected.



### The Odd Fish

**Author:** Naomi Jones **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 09/06/2022  
**Year Groups:** Key Stage 1

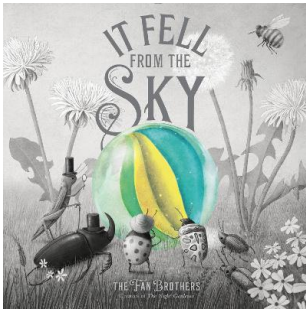
Inspired by their own toddler watching Blue Planet and being struck that he was unable to tell fish apart from the plastic floating in the world's oceans, this is a tale of a very helpful little fish who is equally puzzled by the Odd Fish bobbing along. He and his shoal decide the Odd Fish must be lonely and that they will help him find his family. The text and images flow along with the current very creatively, as they meet dangers and help to rescue other creatures. An octopus trapped in a net and a turtle struggling to eat a plastic bag are saved. Eventually they meet a school of Odd Fish of all shapes and sizes and colours. "There were too many Odd Fish to count". A gentle tale which effectively gets across the message that unsuspecting ocean creatures are put in danger by not being able to recognise that plastic is not edible and also by just how much of it there is. The real fish are very lively, and children will enjoy their little conversations. The beautifully ocean toned images and clever page design are very engaging. The authors note with information about pollution and how you can help at home and at school makes this a very useful introductory text for environment topics.



### Ready for Spaghetti: Funny Poems for Funny Kids

**Author:** Michael Rosen **Format:** Hardback **Release Date:** 02/06/2022  
**Year Groups:** Early Years, Key Stage 1

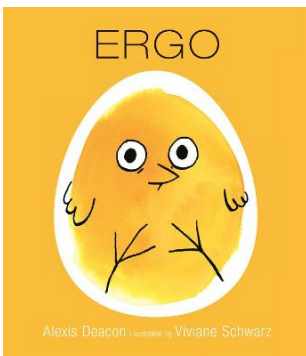
From two of the biggest names in children's publishing, this is an inspiring guide to wordplay for young readers, their parents and teachers. I'm ready for spaghetti Will you getti the spaghetti? Don't say, Not yetti spaghetti! 'cos I'm all setti for spaghetti. Fizzing with rhythm, energy and laughter, the 30 poems in Ready for Spaghetti delight in the details of children's daily routines. Up, up, uppity-up! , the first poem announces, while the artwork shows a child leaping out of bed, ready to begin their morning; Hush and a hush, soft and low , chants the final poem, as children snuggle under their blankets after their day's adventures. Full of affectionate observations of young children, which are beautifully continued in Polly Dunbar's warm-hearted pictures, Michael Rosen's poems are ideal for reading aloud with toddlers ... and many grown-ups will soon know them by heart!



## It Fell From The Sky

**Author:** Eric Fan, Terry Fan **Format:** Hardback **Release Date:** 01/02/2022 **Year Groups:** Key Stage 1

One day a very colourful object fell from the sky – and all the insects are filled with awe and wonder as to what it might be, and how it came to be there. All of the different insects have their own ideas of what it could be – and readers will get their own ideas too! Is it an egg? Is it a flower? Could it have grown? But it is spider who realises there is an opportunity to make a profit from it – and it is he who sets up a viewing system with queues and payment (in leaves) for all the other insects. As the wonder and queues grew, spider put up the prices and started hurrying the others along! Spider became very wealthy – but all the other insects lost interest and no longer came to see the marvel from the sky. Then disaster struck – and a bigger creature took the marvel and spider was all alone, with nothing... What a delightful, innovative picture book. Mostly drawn in greyscale in sumptuous detail with splashes of colour that stand out from the pages and create a wonderful contrast to the surrounding shades. There is so much to see in every picture – and this will be a wonderful book for children to predict outcomes and see the moral of the tale, which is so lightly told. The glorious full colour spread towards the end of the book has so much to see and point out! I think this will be a family and class favourite for many years to come!

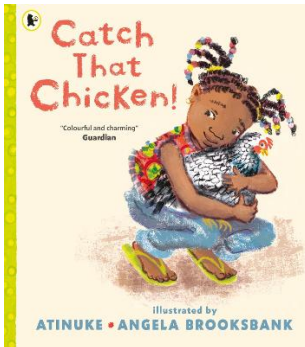


## Ergo

**Author:** Alexis Deacon **Format:** Hardback **Release Date:** 05/08/2021 **Year Groups:** Early Years, Key Stage 1

All brilliant picturebooks rely upon the interplay between words and pictures and this partnership of author and illustrator has very good form. Indeed, the acclaimed *A Place to Call Home* has a similar theme about discovering the world beyond, but in *Ergo* Deacon and Schwarz have produced a sublime and joyful mix of text, art and clever typography, which will stimulate endless discussion and read aloud requests. While not being at all a book about the COVID crisis, I think that this adds additional resonance for children (and adults) who can easily recall the time when they were literally shut inside. It also speaks to the universal self-absorption of young children and babies. Like them, the first discoveries *Ergo* makes are of herself. Her feet! Her wings! A demonstration of the principle that consciousness defines existence - I think therefore I am, as Descartes told us. But then *Ergo* discovers the boundaries of her world and enjoys pushing against these and making her world move and then her astonishment is unbound when she feels movement and noise from outside! The recognition that there may be other creatures like her and the sad thought that they might be forever separated is what spurs her determination to break out and achieve the joyful meeting with fellow fledgelings. What a perfect allegory for

recognising that we all need other people and that there is a wonderful world out there if you are brave enough to explore. A perfect introduction to philosophy with the most apposite title ever- not only a word that means therefore, but one which sounds perfectly egggy too! An absolute must have for classrooms and homes.



## Catch That Chicken!

**Author:** Atinuke **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 01/07/2021 **Year Groups:** Early Years

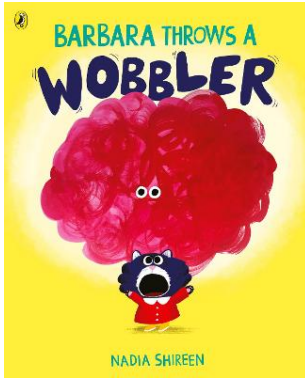
Told with great humour by Nigerian storyteller, Atinuke, this story of the headstrong, impetuous Lami will strike a chord with all children. The gentle message - to use quick thinking not just quick running - gives an incredibly satisfying ending, while Angela Brooksbank's beautiful artwork captures the energy and the beauty of the West African setting perfectly.



## Fred Gets Dressed

**Author:** Peter Brown **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 04/05/2021 **Year Groups:** Early Years

**Longlisted for the UKLA Book Award 2022 ages 3-6 | May 2021 Book of the Month** It is an unusual sight to see a completely naked toddler on the cover of a picture book, but you can tell from his smile as he jauntily stomps across the page that this child is gloriously unashamed, inhabiting that brief interlude in early childhood before self-consciousness sets in. Both here and throughout the book Fred is drawn and positioned so cleverly that his modesty is preserved, and the title reassures the audience that he will get covered up eventually. But first he romps and dances through the house revelling in his freedom, while Mum and Dad blithely carry on reading. Nothing to make a fuss about here! We see his natural curiosity lead him to explore his parent's bedroom and their wardrobes. Dad's clothes prove too difficult to handle, but from Mum's wardrobe he makes a dress from a blouse and scarf. He then totters out on some shoes to try his hand at makeup but ends up with a smear of lipstick across his face, just as Mum and Dad discover him. Their reaction - to clean him up and for Mum to show him how to do it properly and then for Dad and the Dog to join in the fun is simply delightful! A shining example of parental love, acceptance and support. You can never be too young to hear a body positive message told with such innocence and infectious delight.



## Barbara Throws a Wobbler

**Author:** Nadia Shireen **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 15/04/2021  
**Year Groups:** Key Stage 1

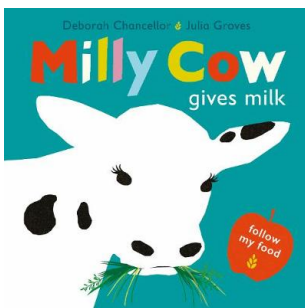
**Shortlisted for the Books for Younger Children category, Children's Book Awards 2022 | Shortlisted for the UKLA Book Award ages 3-6** A brilliantly funny and sensitive way to understand and deal with tantrums.



## Maybe...

**Author:** Chris Haughton **Format:** Hardback **Release Date:** 01/04/2021  
**Year Groups:** Early Years

From Chris Haughton comes a funny, suspenseful and keenly observed cautionary tale about pushing boundaries and indulging your more mischievous, cheeky side (when nobody is looking). Three little monkeys, and their big monkey, are sat high up on their branch in the forest canopy. Ok, monkeys! I'm off, says the big monkey. Now remember. Whatever you do, do NOT go down to the mango tree. There are tigers down there. Mmm ... mangos! think the little monkeys. They LOVE mangos. Hmm ... maybe ... maybe they could just look at the mangos? That'd be ok, right?

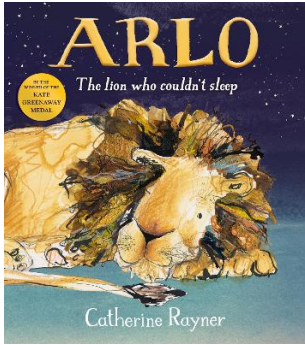


## Milly Cow Gives Milk

**Author:** Deborah Chancellor **Format:** Hardback **Release Date:** 01/04/2021  
**Year Groups:** Early Years

Milly the cow munches grass with her friends, drinks gallons of water, makes cow pats in the field, and visits the milking parlour with her farmer. Milly's milk is then put into cartons and made into butter, cheese and yoghurt. There is a simple quiz at the back and some further information about cows and milk. Bright and stylish papercut art conveys the crucial message that producing food is hard work, and we must respect the animals and humans who produce it, and we must not waste it!





## Arlo The Lion Who Couldn't Sleep

**Author:** Catherine Rayner **Format:** Hardback **Release Date:** 20/08/2020 **Year Groups:** Early Years, Key Stage 1

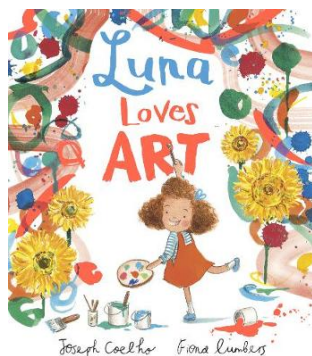
**Shortlisted for CILIP Kate Greenaway Medal 2021** Having suffered heatwaves and COVID anxiety, we can all empathise with the tired and grumpy Arlo who just cannot sleep. The hero of the Greenaway medal winner's new book speaks to us all, but particularly to over-tired and over excited small children who do not know how to let go of the day. Luckily for Arlo, and for children, Owl is to hand with some useful advice on how he manages to sleep when everyone is awake during the day. The logic of receiving advice from a nocturnal animal will really register with this audience. "Have a good stretch from your nose to your toes/ Do a little wriggle, let your eyes gently close/Relax your whole body, slow your breathing right down/ Imagine you're sinking into the soft ground". The gentle refrain that Owl teaches Arlo is the perfect antidote for us all- a little bit of mindfulness that would also be a lovely calm down routine in the classroom! Not only are the illustrations a visual feast, with a stunning colour palette marking the transitions between night and day, but Arlo and Owl are beautifully characterised. Another trademark from this hugely talented author is the warm humour. Arlo is so excited by his long and restful sleep that he must tell Owl- and wakes him up! The song is reciprocated with success and their joint celebrations at dusk wake the rest of the neighbourhood and a duet is required to restore calm. The repeated refrain will be one that is copied in homes and classrooms everywhere. Useful for mindfulness and as an introduction to Night and Day topics, this stunning book is a real triumph of beautiful words and images working in absolute harmony.



## Hello, Friend!

**Author:** Rebecca Cobb **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 20/08/2020 **Year Groups:** Early Years

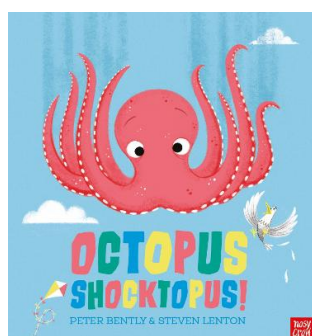
**Longlisted for the UKLA Book Awards 2021** Rebecca Cobb's warm and uncluttered illustrations capture the importance of friendships and how they can best be made. Here, an eager little girl expresses her delightful enthusiasm for sharing everything including indoor and outdoor play, packed lunch and more while in pleasing contrast the boy who is the focus of her attentions shows that friendship can also take longer to develop. A sweet story which also provides a lot of scope for thoughtful conversation and reflection.



## Luna Loves Art

**Author:** Joseph Coelho **Format:** Hardback **Release Date:** 02/07/2020  
**Year Groups:** Early Years, Key Stage 1

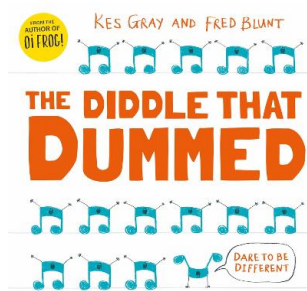
**Longlisted for the UKLA Book Award 2022 ages 3-6 | A Julia Eccleshare Pick of the Month July 2020** A class trip to the art gallery inspires Luna and her friends in all kinds of ways. Seeing the amazing pictures by Cezanne, Matisse, Van Gogh and many more they are transported into other worlds and given the opportunity to savour the colours and textures of some of the world's greatest paintings. They are also encouraged to create their own pictures inspired by the range of images they see and the stories they tell. Luna loves the art - and loves sharing it with her mum who is a helper on the trip. But for some, the experience is more challenging. Can Luna help Finn engage with what he sees and find a way of expressing his feelings? She can and the day ends happily for all. Readers will love this introduction to art as enjoyed by Luna and her classmates.



## Octopus Shocktopus!

**Author:** Peter Bently **Format:** Hardback **Release Date:** 02/07/2020  
**Year Groups:** Early Years, Key Stage 1

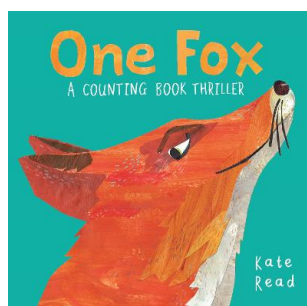
**Shortlisted for the Books for Younger Children category, Children's Book Awards 2022** | 'One day, we found an octopus/ had come to live on top of us.' Those are the opening lines of this glorious picture book - how could you not want to know what happens next? The octopus itself is unmissable - huge and an eye-catching fluorescent orange colour - slightly non-plussed looking perched atop of a very neat little house. Some of the neighbours are not too welcoming, calling the fire brigade to try and force it off, fortunately with little success because once the children of the house and their friends start playing with the octopus, barriers are broken and the advantages of having an eight-legged chum become clear. Illustrator Steven Lenton rises brilliantly to all the challenges set by Peter Bently's ingenious rhymes depicting the various ways in which the octopus helps around the house - often eight different activities at a time, plus one very special octo-tastic Christmas tree. Making friends has never been so much fun and it all comes to a wonderfully octopussy conclusion too. Fabulous!



## The Diddle That Dumbled

**Author:** Kes Gray **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 25/06/2020  
**Year Groups:** Early Years

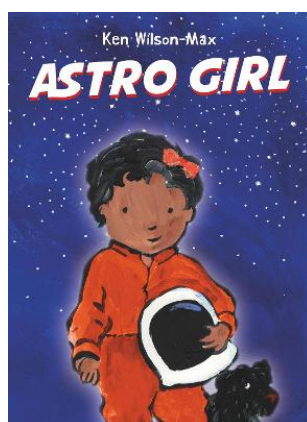
The Diddle that Dumbled is like your favourite pantomime distilled into 32 pages. Fiddler Flinty Bo Diddle is writing a tune for his fiddle – diddle diddle diddle diddle ... all is going well until – dum! Which diddle went dum? The culprit steps forward, shrugging: ‘I’m not like the other diddles. Sometimes I like to go dum.’ Flinty is beside himself, he wants all his diddles to diddle. They try again, and again – they try with the defiant diddle at the beginning and at the end, but every time the diddle goes dum. They swap things round, and try a dum dum dum sequence for Flinty’s drum – you can probably guess what happens. By this point, everyone will be laughing out loud at the sheer silliness of it all, at the diddle’s cheekiness, at Flinty’s furious indignation – and then it gets sillier and more comic still. What seems a simple idea is full of surprises and cleverness and every one of us knows a diddle that dums. Sheer picture book brilliance.



## One Fox

**Author:** Kate Read **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 23/01/2020  
**Year Groups:** Early Years

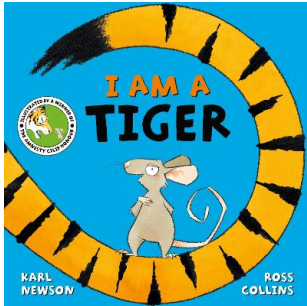
**Shortlisted for the Klaus Flugge Prize 2020 | Shortlisted for the UKLA Book Awards 2021** Kate Read uses bold colours, composition and collage to tell the story of one famished fox’s encounter with some angry hens, making this counting book a real thriller. The Klaus Flugge judges said: ‘Visually stunning. There’s real drama here and the way the story is told is joyous. She’s done a very clever thing and created a counting book while keeping within the beats of a story.’



## Astro Girl

**Author:** Ken Wilson-Max **Format:** Hardback **Release Date:** 06/06/2019  
**Year Groups:** Early Years

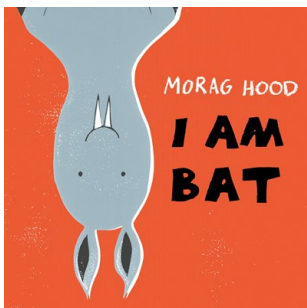
Astrid has always loved the stars and space. I want to be an astronaut! she says. While Mama is away, Papa and Astrid have fun acting out the challenges an astronaut faces on a space mission - eating food from a tube, doing science experiments, living and sleeping in near-zero gravity. Astrid can do it all! Then it's time to meet Mama at the airbase. But where has Mama been?



## I am a Tiger

**Author:** Karl Newson **Format:** Hardback **Release Date:** 16/05/2019  
**Year Groups:** Early Years, Key Stage 1

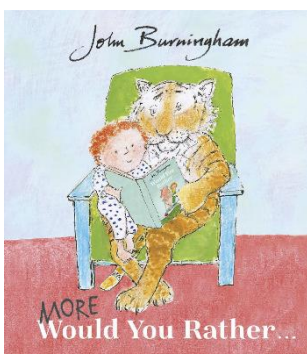
**Longlisted for the UKLA Book Awards 2020 | A Julia Eccleshare Pick of the Month May 2019** A deliciously playful fantasy tells how an audacious and ebullient mouse identifies himself as being something very much more than he is. Especially he dreams of being a tiger! But can he convince anyone else? Sadly for mouse, his lack of stripes, size and GRRR! make it pretty clear that he is certainly not a tiger. And, when a real tiger turns up, Mouse knows for sure that he won't ever be a tiger. Can he be something else? Karl Newson and Ross Collins capture imaginative play perfectly.



## I Am Bat

**Author:** Morag Hood **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 06/09/2018  
**Year Groups:** Early Years

**Winner of the UKLA Book Awards 2019 | One of Our Books of the Year 2017** This must be one of the brightest and best picture books of the year. With minimalist illustrations – simple shapes against blocks of Day-Glo colour – and short lines of text, Morag Hood tells a story that will dazzle and entertain all readers. Cherries, Bat tells us, 'are my favourite things', following this up with a fiercely delivered threat: 'Do not take my cherries.' In later pages though we see the cherries being stolen. Bat is inconsolable until one of the thieves leaves a pear in their place. Bat's emotions – joy, anger, confusion, despair, surprise and joy again – are rendered brilliantly in the tilt of an eyebrow and the angle of the head while the intensity of those emotions will be hilarious yet recognisable to child and parent alike. Superb!

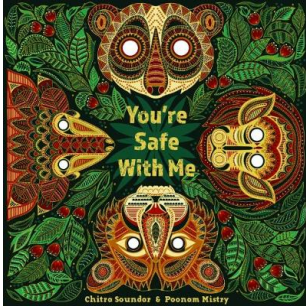


## More Would You Rather

**Author:** John Burningham **Format:** Hardback **Release Date:** 02/08/2018 **Year Groups:** Early Years

More inspired lunacy to delight young readers in this question game format revisited and illustrated in classic Burningham style.

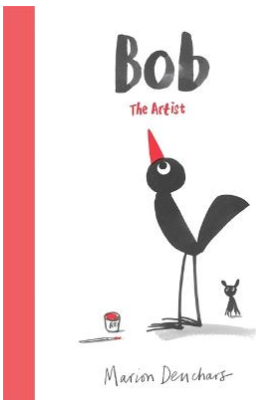




## You're Safe With Me

**Author:** Chitra Soundar **Format:** Hardback **Release Date:** 01/04/2018  
**Year Groups:** Early Years

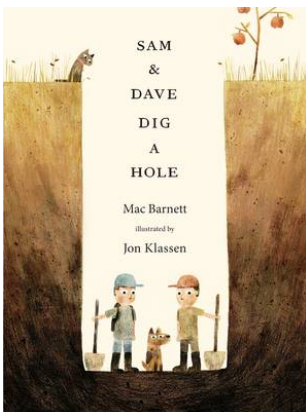
**Shortlisted for the CILIP Kate Greenaway Medal 2018** A wonderfully lyrical call and response text and an intricate, beautifully detailed and different illustrative style combine to great effect in this reassuring tale.



## Bob the Artist

**Author:** Marion Deuchars **Format:** Hardback **Release Date:** 24/03/2016 **Year Groups:** Early Years

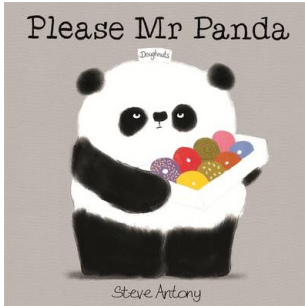
From an award winning graphic artist, Bob the Artist shows us that we can all be proud of our differences as well as celebrating creativity.



## Sam and Dave Dig a Hole

**Author:** Mac Barnett **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 03/09/2015  
**Year Groups:** Early Years

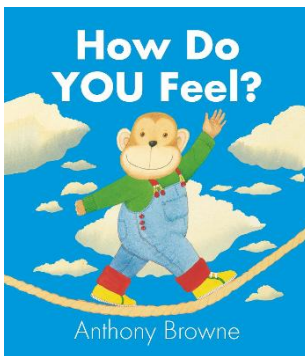
**Shortlisted for the CILIP Kate Greenaway Medal 2016.** Award-winning illustrator Jon Klassen has created a second delightful and surprising picture book with Mac Barnett, author of The Dark. Here two boys dig a hole. It doesn't seem to take them far so they try digging a bit on their own. They still make little progress. So they take a rest...What happens while they are asleep turns out to be most surprising of all! In simple illustrations, Sam and Dave Dig a Hole gives a host of opportunities for imagining and dreaming.



## Please Mr Panda

**Author:** Steve Antony **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 03/09/2015  
**Year Groups:** Early Years

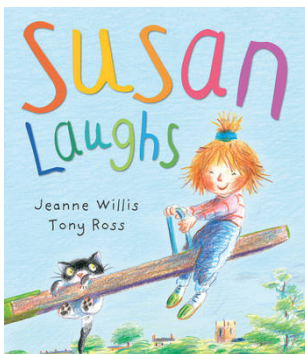
A humorous lesson in manners from the most endearingly grumpy panda. Likely to become a class catchphrase!



## How Do You Feel?

**Author:** Anthony Browne **Format:** Board book **Release Date:** 01/05/2013  
**Year Groups:** Early Years

A wonderful introduction to the art of Anthony Browne and in capturing some complex emotions also has great topic uses for Foundation stage.



## Susan Laughs

**Author:** Jeanne Willis **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 03/02/2011  
**Year Groups:** Early Years

A prize winning title, this introduces Susan who loves to swing, dance, swim, ride do all the things other children do. In fact, she's no different from any other little girl except that, as the final spread shows, she gets about in a wheel chair. The vigour and active text is perfectly supported by Tony Ross's warm hearted illustrations.