



Books are a favorite holiday gift and also a good choice for donations to holiday toy drives. With that thought in mind, the [Toys for Tots Literacy Program](#), and its national sponsor, The UPS Store, are providing the following book list developed by the [National Center for Family Literacy](#) (NCFL) as a guide for parents to use in selecting quality books for their children. The acronym “FAT CAT” serves as a guide to recommend books for readers in four age groups: infant/toddler (birth to age three), preschool/kindergarten, early elementary (kindergarten to third grade), and tweens (children nine to twelve). FAT CAT gives parents the know-how to help their children develop a lifelong love for books and reading.

The acronym “FAT CAT” communicates the following attributes for quality literature:

Fun **A**uthor **T**opic **C**haracter **A**ward Winners **T**ype

Election Category		Infants/ Toddlers	Preschool/ Kindergarten	Early Elementary	Tweens
Fun Everyone likes to have fun. Notice the types of books your child enjoys. Look for others like them.	An old favorite	<i>The Going To Bed Book</i> by Sandra Boynton	<i>The Cat in the Hat</i> by Dr. Seuss	<i>Sam’s Sandwich</i> by David Pelham	<i>Joey Pigza Loses Control</i> by Jack Gantos
	Published more recent	<i>Bear Snores On</i> by Karma Wilson and Jane Chapman	<i>There Is a Bird On Your Head!</i> by Mo Willems	<i>Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Dog Days</i> by Jeff Kinney	<i>Knucklehead: Tall Tales & Mostly True Stories about Growing Up Scieszka</i> by Jon Scieszka
Author Authors who write one good book often write other good books.	An old favorite	<i>Goodnight Moon</i> by Margaret Wise Brown	<i>The Relatives Came</i> by Cynthia Rylant	<i>Thank You, Mr. Falker</i> by Patricia Polacco	<i>Because of Winn-Dixie</i> by Kate DiCamillo
	Published more recently	<i>The Everything Book</i> by Denise Fleming	<i>Old Bear</i> by Kevin Henkes	<i>Soupy Saturdays with the Pain and the Great One</i> by Judy Blume	<i>The Lightning Thief</i> by Rick Riordan
Topic If your child is interested in a special topic, like dinosaurs, then help find books about that topic. Know your child’s interests.	An old favorite	<i>Eating the Alphabet</i> by Lois Ehlert	<i>Something from Nothing</i> by Phoebe Gilman	<i>Listen to the Wind</i> by Greg Mortenson	<i>New Junior Cookbook</i> by Better Homes and Gardens
	Published more recently	<i>Head, Shoulders, Knees and Toes</i> by Annie Kubler (Illustrator)	<i>The House in the Night</i> by Susan Marie Swanson	<i>The Mysterious Benedict Society and the Perilous Journey</i> by Trenton Lee Stewart	<i>Nic Bishop Frogs</i> by Nic Bishop
Character Your child might like books about a special character, such as Curious George or Olivia. Look for other books about that character.	An old favorite	<i>Bunny Cakes</i> by Rosemary Wells	<i>Lily’s Purple Plastic Purse</i> by Kevin Henkes	<i>Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, Very Bad, No Good Day</i> by Judith Viorst	<i>Dacey’s Song</i> by Cynthia Voight
	Published more recently	<i>Olivia</i> by Ian Falconer	<i>Henry and Mudge and the Great Grandpas</i> by Cynthia Rylant	<i>The 39 Clues Book</i> (series) by Jude Watson	<i>Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows (Book 7)</i> by J.K. Rowling
Award Winners Some really great books win awards. These show that many people like the book and maybe your child will too.	An old favorite	<i>The Snowy Day</i> by Ezra Jack Keats	<i>The Polar Express</i> by Chris Van Allsburg	<i>Dear Mr. Henshaw</i> by Beverly Cleary	<i>The Underneath</i> by Kathi Appelt
	Published more recently	<i>Knuffle Bunny: A Cautionary Tale</i> by Moe Willems	<i>And Tango Makes Three</i> by Peter Parnell	<i>The Magician’s Elephant</i> by Kate DiCamillo	<i>The Graveyard Book</i> by Neil Gaiman
Type Read many different types of books with your child. You might find a favorite type that he’ll want to read over and over.	An old favorite	<i>Shapes, Shapes, Shapes</i> by Tana Hoban—a wordless picture book	<i>Who’s in Rabbit’s House?</i> by Verna Aardema—a Masai folk tale	<i>Where the Sidewalk Ends</i> by Shel Silverstein—a poetry collection	<i>The Battle of the Labyrinth</i> by Rick Riordan
	Published more recently	<i>My Big Animal Book</i> by Roger Priddy—nonfiction picture book of animals	<i>Honey...Honey...Lion!</i> by Jan Brett—an African legend	<i>Flotsam</i> by David Wiesner—a wordless picture book	<i>The London Eye Mystery</i> by Siobhan Dowd—a mystery

For information on the Toys for Tots Literacy Program visit www.ToysforTotsLiteracy.org