

Check It Out!

New Stuff from the Conference Resource Library
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Children's Books for Using in Church #2

For a similar list see Vol. 14:9, Nov. 2002

Hands are not for hitting.

Agassi, Martine. Free Spirit, 2000. J 303.6 AGA

Hands are for saying hello and for sharing, playing clapping. This book highlights the positive things that hands can do and how to handle strong feelings without hitting. A gentle, encouraging book that reinforces two main themes: violence is never okay, and every child is capable of kind, loving actions. Themes: non-violence, kindness, feelings.

Peace Is...

Baskill, Jane. Mondo, 2003. E BAS

Wonderful multicultural illustrations for simple phrases about peace. "Peace is the work that we all must do, peace is a promise to care for each other..." Peace is also a "candle lit in the midst of darkness, a bell that you ring for all to hear." Gentle imagery that children can identify with. Themes: peace, promises, kindness, community.

A Ride on Mother's Back

Bernhard, Emery and Durga. Gulliver, 1996. J 392.13 BER

Explores the way people from a variety of cultures carry their young ones, and describes what children see and learn as they are carried. Nice to use for missions focus. Themes: parent & child, multiculturalism, manners & customs.

One Child.

Cheng, Christopher. Crocodile, 2000. E CHE

One by one, children do simple things, such as walking to school, planting a tree, cleaning the yard to help save their

environment. Themes: importance of one, caring for earth.

Bruna

Cottringer, Anne. Bloomsbury, 2003.

Bruna is a young girl who is always cold. She tries everything she can think of to get warm but nothing works until she risks her own comfort to save a bear from freezing. Themes: risk-taking, friendship, comfort.

Harriet, You'll Drive Me Wild!

Fox, Mem. Harcourt, 2000. E FOX

When a young girl has a series of mishaps at home one day, her mother tries not to yell, but does not succeed. Themes: mother and daughter, patience, temper, reconciliation, forgiveness.

Grandparent's Song

Hamanaka, Sheila. HarperCollins, 2003. E HAM

A rhyming celebration of ancestry and the diversity that flourishes in this country. Themes: family history, multiculturalism, ethnicity.

All Alone.

Henkes, Kevin. Greenwillow, 2003. E HEN

A young boy explains why sometimes it is nice to be alone. He can see, hear and remember lots of things he could not do if he were busy with something. Also, he has time to think! Themes: solitude, self-awareness.

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My Book of Thanks

Hennessy, B.G. Candlewick Press, 2002. J242.62 HEN

The simple words and pictures help us reflect on the many blessings, large and small that we enjoy in our lives. Each page is a delightful illustration with an offering of thanks to God. Themes: Thanksgiving, prayer, gratefulness

You Can Do It, Sam.

Hest, Amy. Candlewick, 2003. E HES

When Mrs. Bear and little Sam deliver the cakes they have made for their friends in the neighborhood, Sam carries the cakes all by himself. Themes: independence, sharing, self-confidence.

God Smiles When

Hudson, Wade. Abingdon, 2002. J 231.6 HUD

A gentle reassuring story of a pre-schooler who goes through the day discovering the many ways that God is near at all times. Also suggests that when we are generous, respectful and caring, God is pleased. Themes: our love for God, discipleship, basic faith issues for children.

Farfallina and Marcel.

Keller, Holly. Greenwillow, 2002. E KEL

A caterpillar and a duckling become friends and realize that even as they change and grow, they can still be friends. Themes: self-esteem, growth, change, friendship.

Who Shares?

Lipniacka, Ewa. Dial. 2003. E LIP

Brother and sister rabbits have trouble sharing most everything and experience lots of sibling conflict until the very end of the story – when they share chicken pox. Themes: sharing, sibling rivalry, sickness.

Whistling

Partridge, Elizabeth. Greenwillow, 2003. E PAR

A boy and his father experience the joy of camping and the natural world as together they “whistle up the sun” early one morning. Themes: nature, father/son relationship.

On That Day: a book of hope for children.

Patel, Andrea. Tricycle Press, 2001.

Simple text and pictures refer to the September 11, 2003 tragedy and talks about how children can do good things in response, to make the world a better place. Themes: Hope and action in the midst of fear and tragedy, affirmation of children.

The Happy Hedgehog

Pfister, Marcus. North-South, 2000. E PFI

Mikko is perfectly happy living in his garden until his grandfather suggests he should accomplish something important. Themes: contentment, happiness, satisfaction.

I Wish Tonight.

Rock, Lois. Good Books, 1999. E ROC

A child wishes for a world of goodness, laughter and fun and receives his wish in a dream. Themes: Hope, dreams, good will.

The Name Quilt

Root, Phyllis. FSG, 2003. E ROO

One of Sadie’s favorite things to do when she visits her grandmother is to hear stories about the family members whose names are on a special quilt. When the quilt is destroyed in a storm, Sadie learns that the family memories live on in the stories. Soon another quilt begins, with Sadie’s name in the middle. Themes: Family history, traditions, memories.

Crazy Hair Day.

Saltzberg, Barney. Candlewick, 2003. E SAL

Stanley is excited about Crazy Hair Day at school until he realizes he got the date wrong and he is the only one with wacky hair. His teacher and classmates save the day by also adorning their hair in crazy ways – just in time for the school picture. Themes: friendship, solidarity, changing a bad experience into something great.

The Thank-You Book

Stuart, Carole. Four Walls Eight Windows, 2001. J 395.122 STU

A basic book about why it is nice to express appreciation to others. Not faith-based, but could be used in settings to talk about manners, classroom etiquette and being grateful. Themes: manners, thankfulness.

Courage

Waber, Bernard. Houghton Mifflin, 2002. E WAB

Not really a story but dozens of quick illustrations of what courage is, many are about have self-control as well as bravery. Themes: courage; knowing who you are; self-awareness, self-esteem.