I registered my daughter for kindergarten this past week. It is a bit nerve wracking to send her out into the big world. I had to remind myself that parents have the biggest influence in their children's lives. This principle also applies to reading. Here are a few tips to help parents find time to read to their children:

* Visit the library with your child. There’s nothing like being surrounded by a lot of great books to get you interested in reading. Also check out the library’s programs for story times and reading contests.

* Set aside a special time each day to read with your child. Bedtime or before their daily quiet time are great choices (see the January installment of Memoirs of a Mom for more on quiet times).

* Read a book yourself. The more you read the more you will be interested in others reading. Your child will pick up on your enthusiasm.

My daughter Hannah and I compiled a list of some of our favorite children’s picture books. Hope you enjoy our picks. Have fun coming up with your own favorites!

*Daisy Comes Home* by Jan Brett
Wonderful drawings and a well rounded story.

*Bunny Cakes* by Rosemary Wells
A great and funny story—made me laugh out loud!

*Big Bad Bruce* by Bill Peet
A great story for reading aloud!

*Maxi—The Hero* by Debra & Sal Barracca
The artwork is fabulous—look for the hidden pictures!

*Mrs. Armitage—Queen of the Road* by Quentin Blake
One of my particular favorites—you’ll love Mrs. Armitage!

*Rub-a-dub Sub* by Linda Ashman
A great read-aloud picture book. One you’ll read again and again.

Happy Reading!

Lisa Potts