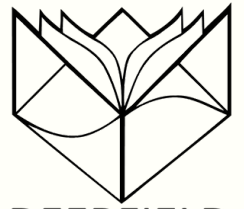




Preschool Pages: Gather Together



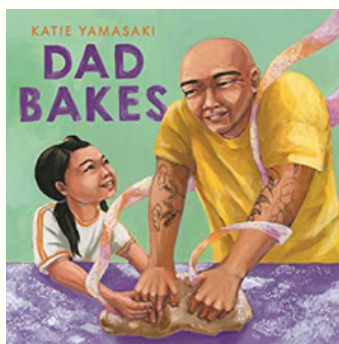
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*Book Recommendations, Early Literacy Tips, and More
from the Deerfield Public Library Youth Services Department*

Book Recommendations



Follow along as a group of neighbors join together to make a delicious batch of hot pot! Everyone has something to share to add to the meal. This book makes especially well for a read-aloud or for a first introduction to recipes. What comes first, second, then third? This is a celebration of community creating something delicious for everyone.



Patience is a tough thing to learn as a kid. But an important skill in baking. This young girl waits for her dad to return from his early morning shift at a bakery. Once he's home, she practices patience again as she waits for the dough to rise before they can bake bread. Yamasaki wows with her gorgeous illustrations on every page.



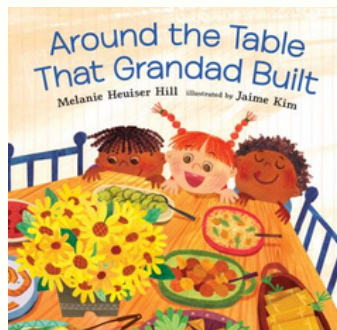
Chris Raschka's easily identifiable art accompanies minimal language in a book that manages to celebrate the everyday and the extraordinary. Attentive readers will enjoy seeing what gets added to the titular blue table, culminating in a special family gathering.



This rhyming celebration of different types of hugs features a family being reunited. The family gathers in the backyard, eating, playing, catching fireflies, and falling asleep in a tent. This sweet book addresses the many ways we embrace our loved ones.



Eating is a universal experience but we all do it a bit differently! This board book full of photographs is beautiful and inclusive in demonstrating different disabilities and the various ability aides used to eat. Plus lots of yummy food!



This cumulative story starts with an empty table and ends with a feast attended by family and friends, all who have contributed to the decorated and fully laden table. There is a mention of grace being given, illustrated alongside the people holding hands, but no specific religious reference.

Author/Illustrator Spotlight

KATHRYN OTOSHI

Sometimes an author or illustrator has so many great titles, we wish we could name them all! This month, we want to highlight the work of Kathryn Otoshi. Otoshi's background as an art director for LucasFilm informs her illustration and writing style, as she sees her books as "mini-movies." Addressing themes such as bullying, friendship, grief, strength, and self-worth, her books are springboards to important conversations.



Beyond the Book!

The book *Hot Pot* follows a community making a meal together. What meals do you and your kids make together? Together, think of something you cook. Then see if you can remember the recipe from memory. Think of the list of ingredients together and write them down. Then talk about the sequence of steps when cooking the meal. Talking about recipes is a great way to introduce early literacy skills! You can write down the steps as your child describes how to cook something - this can help show them the purpose and necessity of writing.



Meals are a wonderful time to get caught up on each other's days. Play the "High-Low" game together to help structure the conversation. Have each person go around and share one high (happy moment from the day) and one low (difficult moment). Some people call this Roses and Thorns instead. Whatever you call it, it's a good way to check in with each other, be honest about the good and the bad of normal days, and celebrate and problem-solve with each other!

