75+ Montessori books for children

up to 4 years old

by
The Montessori Notebook
books for Montessori children

**ANIMALS**

- **Tell me about the Sea by Justine Smith**
  Lots of under water creatures to meet in this more advanced word book.

- **Dear Zoo by Rod Campbell**
  The board book version of this is the best as it needs to be strong to maintain all the lift-the-flap goodness that the kids love. “I wrote to the zoo to send me a pet. They sent me an elephant. He was too big. I sent him back.” Find out if they send an animal that’s just right.

- **My first pets by DK**
  These DK board books are perfect Montessori books because of the realistic pictures (photos) used and the vocabulary is nice and detailed.

- **The very hungry caterpillar by Eric Carle**
  A classic and a must have for sure.
The very busy spider by Eric Carle

We all know the illustrations of Eric Carle from The Very Hungry Caterpillar. The board book version has the spider web raised off the page to touch and tells the story of a spider's busy day.

1000 animals by Jessica Greenwell

So many animals to look at. 1000 of them including mammals, under water creatures, birds and more.

Hairy Maclary from Donaldson’s Dairy by Lynley Dodd

One of those books that kids want to read again and again. This is the first of a series with realistic pictures of dogs (and some cats) on adventures. Lovely rhyming too.

Mijn kleine dierenboek

Clear photos of lots of animals with their names in Dutch underneath. In Dutch
books for Montessori children

ART

The Big Book of Art by Hervé Tullet

Patterns galore to match and swap. A fun exploration of art for older toddlers and preschoolers.

A child’s book of art: Great pictures, first words selected by Lucy Micklethwait (DK)

I love the way this book displays famous paintings in a way that the children love to explore. For example, a page with paintings with different weather (sunny, rainy etc).

The Little Rijksmuseum

This is a gorgeous word book using objects and people from very famous paintings. In Dutch, also available in English.
books for Montessori children

Look for books by BIPOC authors and offer representation of all people; I recommend socialjusticebooks.org

Antiracist Baby by Imran X Kendi
Gives messages that we see all colours and stand up for justice for all

Saturday by Oge Mora
Spending Saturdays together is the best

Another by Christian Robinson
A book without words, illustrations of a child and their cat, and representation of diversity in other children. A little whimsical.

Little You by Richard van Camp
A book of love and acceptance
Look for books by BIPOC authors and offer representation of all people; I recommend socialjusticebooks.org

**Intersection Allies**
by Chelsea Johnson

This is a book for older children (3-6 years) with beautiful stories of children from all countries, all backgrounds, and all abilities, and how we help each other.

**Whistle for Willie**
by Ezra Jack Keats

Also “Snowy day” and “Letter for Amy.” Beautiful everyday stories with Black children. *(Note: Ezra Jack Keats was not a BIPOC author but portrays them beautifully)*

**Different Differenter**
by Jyoti Gupta

A beautiful workbook for older children about skin colour.

Recommended for parents:
*Anti-Bias Education For Young Children and Ourselves*
*Don’t Look Away: Embracing Anti-Bias Classrooms*
Global babies
Babies from around the world. Babies love to see pictures of other babies.

I see by Helen Oxenbury
Also “I hear”, “I can”

Red, Blue, Yellow Shoe by Tana Hoban

Dressing by Helen Oxenbury
Ten Little Fingers and Ten Little Toes by Mem Fox

A sweet rhyming stories with babies of many skin tones.

Baby Faces by Margaret Miller

Babies love to look at other babies. A lovely simple board book for babies.

Die is klein by Gottmer

A lovely Dutch word book. Clear pictures with a modern design.

In Dutch

Dieren (Jip en Janneke) naar de verhalen van Annie M.G. Schmidt

Illustrations from the much loved Jip and Janneke books for this sweet word book. Also available “Spelen”. In Dutch
books for Montessori children

FIND AND SEEK

**De gele ballon by Charlotte Dematons**

More magic from Charlotte Dematons. Kids (and adults) love to hunt for the yellow balloon on each page. Every page is beautifully illustrated. *Dutch title but no words inside.*

**Nederland by Charlotte Dematons**

Another book from Charlotte Dematons all about the Netherlands. *Dutch title but no words inside.*
Find the Puppy (Usborne Find-its)

Which kid does not love finding and seek books? This one has a hidden puppy on every page to find around the house.

Can you find me? by Priddy Bicknell Books

This is a sweet book for finding different objects from things about the home to different things to eat.
**Autumn by Gerda Muller**

Lovely artwork to depict activities for each season. No words allows lots of creativity when reading.

**Wat een winter: Kijk- en zoekboek by Rotraut Susanne Berner**

You can buy each season separately or in one book. The characters in each of the books repeat and you can follow their stories through the books. A very kind gift from a family. *In Dutch*
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### SHAPES AND COLOURS

**Press Here by Herve Tullet**

A book that is totally interactive and has your kid pressing the pages and turning them over to see what happens. Dots start changing colour and moving as you press the dots on each page. Love this book. I like to describe this book as “before there were iPads”.

**Colours (Lift-the-flap DK)**

A simple introduction to colours with various items of each colour hidden under flaps.

**Baby’s eerste kleurtjes**

I picked this up at a discount store and it is just perfect. Clear pictures focussing on a specific colour for each page. Also available “Diertjes”. *In Dutch*

**Montessori shape work by Bobby and June George**

This series has raised edges so the children can feel the shapes at the same time as learning their names.

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Bardi counting book by Lucy Wildagoo Dann (currently unavailable)

Beautiful Aboriginal drawings of animals to help learn counting.

Animals to Count by Brian Wildsmith

Someone passed this book on to me and I love the illustrations and we get to count the animals. Win:win.

Lift-the-flap Counting Book (Usborne)

Our copy of this book is well worn and the flaps have been stuck in many times. Lovely counting book from 1 to 5.

Montessori number work by Bobby and June George

The numbers are raised so children can also feel the numbers as they learn their names.
books for Montessori children

**Diary of a wombat** by Bruce Whatley
A delightful book about the day in the life of a cheeky wombat.

**Waterhole** by Graeme Base
A fun book about numbers with a social conscience and gorgeous illustrations. Watch the animals come to the waterhole starting at 10 and down to 1 as the waterhole shrinks.

**Rosie's Hat** by Julia Donaldson and Anna Currey
Julia Donaldson of “The Gruffalo” fame is a co-author to this book about a hat that has a great story to tell. I love all the details in this book, realistic pictures and children love it.

**Die Koe die in het Water Viel** by Phyllis Krasilovsky
A classic tale about Hendrika the cow who ends up going to visit the market after all. *In Dutch*
The Giant Jam Sandwich by John Vernon Lord

How do you solve a wasp problem in town? Have a town meeting and see what this town come up with. A very sweet present we received.

Rosie’s Walk by Pat Hutchins

This is a book that you read over and over again. Very few words but lots to talk about. And the sweetest illustrations from the 1970s that never seem to date.

Fred the Firefighter by Jo Litchfield and Felicity Brooks

I love this jobs series by Usborne. Here we follow Fred’s day. They sit down to eat lunch when the alarm is raised at the fire station. Other books in the series include Tessa the Teacher.
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**The Windy Day by Anna Milbourne and Elena Temporin (also available Sunny Day)**

What happens on a windy day? Let’s find out!

**The Pear in the Pear Tree by Pamela Allen**

This is a silly one but a lot of fun. John and Jane see a pear in a pear tree but can’t reach it. Delightful.

**Karel krijgt een hondje by Liesbet Slegers**

The story follows a family getting a puppy and looking after him in a simple story format. *In Dutch*
Moving House
(Usborne First Experiences)

Getting your child ready for a move can be difficult as it is quite an abstract concept for a young child. This book talks about a family that is moving, from packing up their boxes to meeting the neighbours in their new house.

There’s a house in mummy’s tummy by Giles Andreae

Preparing for a new baby? This book is an introduction to help your child prepare. Easy to understand.

Mama, wat heb je in je buik? by Abby Cocovini

This book is huge and shows the baby growing inside the mum’s tummy month by month pretty much to scale. This was a gift to our school and is still loved. In Dutch
Our Bodies

Alfie’s Feet by Shirley Hughes
Shirley Hughes has the most beautiful illustrations of kids doing the most normal things. “Alfie’s Feet” is one of these stories. Most enjoyable.

Billen Buikje Benen by Betty Sluyzer and Pauline Oud
This book is full of body words, simple pictures and some rhyme in the mix too. In Dutch

My first body board book (DK)
My children LOVED this book. They loved to see the other babies as we’d point and name all the body parts. A lovely DK book.
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**VEHICLES**

**Mighty Machines**
by DK (similar Big Book of Things That Go)

I bought this when my son was 2 years old and I needed to learn all the names of the vehicles we saw around town. It’s still being used in my class more than 13 years later. Like an encyclopaedia for vehicles.

**De grote rode bus**
by Judy Hindley

Oh dear. There is a hole in the road and no one can get through. This is a fantastic Dutch book for kids that love all kinds of vehicles. *In Dutch*

**Little Red Train to the Rescue**
by Benedict Blathwayt

The little red train has a whole lot of crazy things to overcome in this sweet book suitable for an older toddler/preschooler. Perfect for train lovers.

**Moving blocks**
by Yusuke Yonezu

Shapes, vehicles and a peek-a-boo combination to find out which vehicle is being built. If you appreciate graphic design I think you’ll like this.
I have the small version of this board book and it is lovely. Photos of 100 vehicles with their correct names - a great reference book when you are learning vehicle names. *In Dutch*

Not just vehicles, this is a witty word book to do with transportation from the makers of *Amsterdamsdingen*. Enjoy! *In Dutch*

If you have ever wondered what different vehicles were called, then this is the book for you. The pictures in this series are beautiful.
About Daily Life

**Sunshine by Jan Ormerod**

I mention this book all the time as it is a perfect example of a book with realistic pictures all about daily life. The kids LOVE it. It’s hard to find but worth it. There is a second in the series called Moonlight.

**Moonlight by Jan Ormerod**

This is the second in the series after Sunshine. This time we see the little girl getting ready for bed. The illustrations are timeless and a story all children can relate to.

**Time for bed by Mem Fox**

A classic rhyming book with realistic pictures as we tuck all the animals with their babies into bed. A perfect bed time storybook.
Tijn in de winkel by Betty Sluyzer and Pauline Oud

Children love to read about Tijn going to the shops as it is so recognisable from their daily life.

*In Dutch*

**Market Day**
(Usborne Farmyard Tales)

This series from Usborne is again about daily life. I find these books so down to earth and delightful. Also available in this series “Camping Out”.

**Jip en Janneke** by Annie M.G. Schmidt en Fiep Westendorp

This 50 year anniversary edition includes many Jip and Janneke adventures. Good old fashioned fun. *In Dutch, but some stories are available in English.*
Around the Home

Garden (Usborne Look and Say series)
A word book set in the garden. Lovely vocabulary and attractive pictures too. Also in this series “The Farm”, “Jobs”.

At Home (Usborne very first words)
Usborne makes lovely word books and this one is no exception. Kids love to see things from their daily life in books.

Een huis om open te vouwen by Lucie Brunellière
I love the illustrations in this book where the children can find lots of objects around the home. The book folds open to make a 3D house too. *In Dutch*
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**Older Toddlers + Preschoolers**

**Montessori letter work** by Bobby and June George

This book is a way for children to explore the tactile sense of letters as they would with Montessori sandpaper letters - not sandpaper but raised and shiny to help feel the letters as you sound them out.

**The art of clean up: Life made neat and tidy** by Ursus Wehrli

This book is a masterpiece. On one page you see some washing; the opposite page, the clothes all hung up in rainbows. On another page some alphabet soup; on the following page, all the letters lined up in a row. A visual treat you are sure to enjoy too. A lovely gift we received.

**The Creepy Crawly Caterpillar: The amazing life cycle of a butterfly** (Little Explorers)

A simple book for preschoolers to explain the life cycle of a butterfly. Easy to read and interesting talking points.
Surprising Sharks by Nicola Davies

Do you have a shark lover in the house? Learn all about these sea creatures.

Let’s Look at the Zoo by Night (Torchlight)

You may be lucky to find a copy of this one. The pages are darkened and you use a white torch to “visit” all the animals at night.
This is a lovely lift the flap book for older toddlers all preschoolers as the flaps are more fragile. The flaps in this book are adorable - my favourite are the Christmas cards on the fireplace which you can open and read.

A sweet story about the spirit of Christmas with beautiful illustrations.

Beautiful handcut illustrations by a Jacaranda Tree Montessori parent who couldn’t find a book about Sinterklaas where her Black daughter was represented.
Wat voel ik? By Liesbet Slegers

A Dutch book exploring how things feel - hard, soft etc. Short easy sentences perfect for toddlers. In Dutch

Het Grote Billen Boek by Guido van Genechten

A book to introduce toileting to your child. It’s a bit silly, but a lot of fun too. In Dutch

Poesje Mauw by Mies van Hout

Sweet illustrations and words to popular Dutch children’s songs. In Dutch

Bijt-ie in je bil!

Including a CD with popular Dutch children’s songs. In Dutch

All links go to my Amazon storefront