

p.e. sampler: back-to-school

• **"My Teacher Dances on the Desk"** by Eugene Gagliano, illustrated by Tatjana Mai-wyss (Sleeping Bear Press, \$6.95). Penned by a former teacher, this poetry collection contains humorous verses depicting the missteps of every aspect of school life. With poems like "Stinky Sneakers," "The Whoopee Cushion" and "Your Books Are Due," this book will have students of all ages laughing out loud.

• **"How Your Child Learns Best"** by Judy Willis, MD (Sourcebooks, Inc. \$14.95). Improve your children's success in school by enhancing their learning experience. This book provides parents with fun activities and targeted strategies to use with their children for tackling tough academic areas.

• **"A Parents Guide to the Middle School Years"** by Joe Bruzese (Celestial Arts, \$14.95). This guide provides parents, children and educators with valuable advice for facing the critical years from sixth to eighth grade. Some helpful hints include rules for cell phone use, enhancing communication, and strategies for academic achievement.

• **"Appleville Elementary: First Day"** by Nancy Krulik (Scholastic, \$3.99). Make the transition from kindergarten to first grade go from scary to exciting with this story. Meet Carlos, who isn't quite sure he wants to go to first grade, and follow his journey as he makes new friends and learns that school is more than it's cracked up to be, after all.

• **"I Spy A to Z"** by Jean Marzollo, photographs by Walter Wick (Scholastic, \$13.99). This addition to the "I Spy" series contains tips for helping children learn the ABCs, introducing rhyming, and exploring how the same letter can have a different sound in different words.

• **"Twenty-Odd Ducks"** by Lynne Truss, illustrated by Bonnie Timmons (G.P. Putnam's Sons, \$16.99). Make learning punctuation hilarious with this book, a companion to "Eats, Shoots & Leaves." A very simple, basic method for teaching the importance of appropriate punctuation.

• **"Bullies Never Win"** by Margery Cuyler, illustrated by Arthur Howard (Simon & Schuster, \$16.99). This book for young children will aid in opening up discussions about bullies and illustrates one possible method of putting a stop to bullying.



• **"The Sleepy Little Alphabet: A Bedtime Story from Alphabet Town"** by Judy Sierra, illustrated by Melissa Sweet (Random House, \$16.99). A good book for learning to recognize letters and introduce rhyming, this is a treat for children and parents alike. Children will love the colorful illustrations, and parents will be able to relate to the humorous extremes children go to in order to avoid bedtime.

• **"The Gifted Kids' Survival Guide"** by Judy Galbraith (Free Spirit Publishing, \$12.99). This book covers the social and emotional challenges GT (gifted and talented) children face and offers solid, up-to-date resources for children, parents, and educators, including "8 Great Grips of GT Kids" and "5 Things GTs Need to Succeed."

• **"The Hair of Zoe Fleefenbacher Goes to School"** by Laurie Halse Anderson, illustrated by Ard Hoyt (Simon & Schuster, \$16.99). A somewhat fantastical, fun-filled tale on transitioning into first grade, and learning to foster a positive relationship with a new teacher.

colorful, fun, interactive way for kids to learn how to tie their shoes. Includes a colorful set of laces attached to the book itself so that kids can follow right along with the story and instructions as Eric the monkey also learns how to tie his shoes.

• **"Off to Kindergarten"** by Tony Johnston, illustrated by Melissa Sweet (Scholastic, \$7.99). This fun, rhyming book will help erase first-day jitters as Bill gets prepared for beginning kindergarten.

• **"Happy School Year"** by Susan Milord, illustrated by Mary Newell DePalma (Scholastic, \$15.99). A great way to get excited for the first day back to school, this book has colorful illustrations and follows the story of several different families as they prepare for the big day.

• **"First Picture Dictionary"** (Scholastic, \$15.99). A great resource for beginning word-picture association with young children.

• **"I'm Your Bus"** by Marilyn Singer, illustrated by Evan Polenghi (Scholastic, \$16.99). This book is a simple but fun and colorful story about the life and responsibilities of a school bus.

• **"Billy Bully: A School-yard Counting Tale"** by Avaro and Ana Galan, illustrated by Steve Simpson (Scholastic, \$3.99). A teaching tool for making children aware of bullying behaviors while exploring counting and rhyming.

• **"Wow! Wow! Wubbzy!: School Surprise"** adapted by Lauren Cecil, based on an episode by Frederick Stroppe (Scholastic, \$4.99). A cute story based on the Nick Jr. cartoon show, focuses on first day of school jitters and shows just how much fun school can really be.

• **"Alphabet Series"** by Sleeping Bear Press (variety of prices, from \$16.95). This extensive series of books includes titles such as "M is for Mom," "A is for Anaconda" and "S is for S'mores." Written in a two-tiered text format, the poetry introduces young readers to the topic while sidebar text provides additional details for older readers, and the art will keep kids and parents alike coming back for more.

• **"Tommy and the T-Tops: Helping Children Overcome Prejudice"** by Frederick Alimonti and Ann M. Tedesco, Ph.D., illustrated by John Hazard (New Horizon Press, \$8.95). Follow Tommy the green triceratops as he learns not to judge others based on appearances. This book can be used to help demonstrate the benefits of tolerance and opens the door for parents to discuss in a positive way with their children the negatives of judging others based on appearances.

• **"Paul the Pack Rat: Helping Children Learn to Share"** by Vickie J. Belmore with Corey Hoover, M.Ed., illustrated by Paul Ciaravino (New Horizon Press, \$8.95). Paul the Pack Rat has it all, but refuses to share! It takes an unfortunate event and for his friends to show him that they will always be there for him to realize friendship is what truly matters. This story teaches children the importance of not being selfish and to be generous with others.

