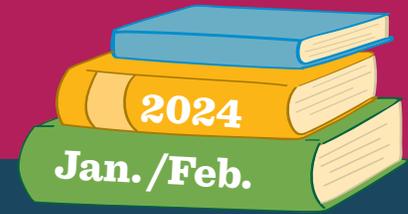


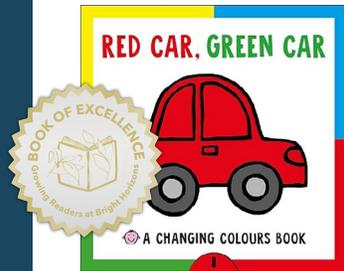
# Growing Readers Review



Books of Excellence books are selected annually by a panel of Bright Horizons early childhood experts and represent some of the best new writing in children's literature.

## Books of Excellence

### Red Car, Green Car



Infant/Toddler

#### Written by Priddy Books; Illustrated by Adria Meserve

Explore bright colors and playful rhymes in this interactive board book brimming with rich vocabulary for babies and toddlers. Pull each tab to see the color change behind each car.

#### Extend the Learning

- ▶ **Serve and Return conversations.** As you read, notice your child's gestures and verbalizations. Respond to their movements and interests and continue the back-and-forth, dialogue-style interaction as you flip through the book together.
- ▶ **Interactive reading.** Have children pull the tabs and watch the car color change. This type of interaction strengthens their fine motor skills and helps them explore the concept of cause and effect.

### Tree Hole Homes



Preschool

#### Written by Melissa Stewart; Illustrated by Amy Hevron

Did you know some animals live in trees? In this nature-themed book, follow a young girl on a walk through the forest as she spots different tree homes and the animals that inhabit them.

Perfect for multiple read-alouds, the book features a main storyline along with a secondary text that provides specific information about the animal on each page. Turn to the back matter to revisit the list of tree home dwellers and learn about their scientific names, their sizes, what they eat, and a fun fact!

#### Extend the Learning

- ▶ **Create your own "tree hole".** Find a space in the house to create a quiet nesting area. Young children love small spaces to tuck away into, especially those that create a sense of calm.
- ▶ **Take a hike.** Go on an outdoor adventure to explore the habitats in woods, forests, or the trees in the city. Notice where the animals have made holes in trees or where birds have set up their nests. Invite your child to make observations of what catches their interest.

We believe that books have the power to build empathy in children, introducing them to new perspectives and ideas. Through stories, children come to understand others' hopes, dreams, joys, and sorrows. We're committed to offering diverse stories and voices to our readers.

# Reading News

As a child, Melissa Stewart was curious about the natural world. From a young age, she and her father enjoyed walks in the forests of Massachusetts. One day on a walk, her father asked her to make observations of the trees. After noticing that some trees were small, her father applauded her observations and shared about the history of the forest. From that day, and that simple, yet powerful interaction, Melissa's passion and pursuit to study nature blossomed.

During college, Melissa studied biology while continuing to write in her personal time. After encouragement from one of her biology professors, Melissa realized her talent for writing and reporting on scientific findings. After graduating from New York University, Melissa worked as an editor for nine years before launching her career as a book writer.

Today, Melissa explores the world from the rain forests of Costa Rica to the savanna in East Africa to share her first-hand observations. She has written over 200 science books for children of all ages.



## Growing Readers Book Club

**Become Teacher Nate's co-researchers as you and your child are introduced to high-quality children's books along with ideas to explore, create, and investigate further!**

This month's Growing Readers Book Club Video features the book "Tree Hole Homes" by Melissa Stewart. Join Teacher Nate for an exploration of animal habitats and stretch your engineering skills as you build a habitat model.

[Watch the video here!](#)

## Storytelling/Reading Tips

### Notice the Illustrations

As you read, point out the small details, colors, shapes, and media to your child. Take turns sharing your favorite illustrations and ask what your child notices about the illustrator's work. Perhaps it is a wave from one of the animal characters from the book *Red Car, Green Car*. What looks familiar in the illustrations? For example, you can say, "I see you are pointing to the curved banana. You're right, that was our snack yesterday."

Notice the texture of the trees in *Tree Hole Homes*. The illustrator used acrylic paint and charcoal pencil to create the lines on the tree bark. Observe how the lines curve down each tree. Encourage children to create their own forest illustrations.

Visit the Growing Readers website to see a list of other great books we recommend checking out!

Point your smart phone camera at the code to link to the Growing Readers website for more book recommendations.

