

# Growing Readers

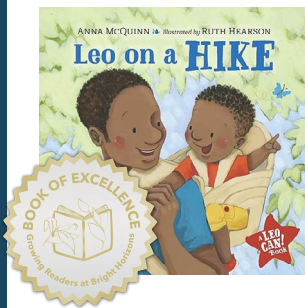
## Review



Books of Excellence titles 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

### Leo on a Hike



Infant/Toddler

**Written by Anna McQuinn; Illustrated by Ruth Hearson**

Leo and his dad get ready to explore the hiking trails. Follow Leo as he interacts with nature, enjoying the day looking at trees and coming across different animals. Young children will marvel at pointing to and exploring the easy to follow details within the illustrations.

### Activities

- ▶ **Whose prints are those?** Make a footprint with paint, trace your footprint on a piece of paper, or go outside and step in some dirt. Point out the different prints you see — could be a car tire on the pavement, the wet paw prints of a dog, or the small shoe outline of your child.
- ▶ **Enjoy a walk.** Whether it's the city or out in nature, enjoy a walk with your young child. Take a snack, talk about the different things you spot on the way, and notice what interests your child as they point and make gestures.

### This is a Story



Preschool

**Written by John Schu; Illustrated by Lauren Castillo**

The story unfolds as a young girl and her dad start with a day in the park and take a stroll to the library. Through heart-warming text and colorful illustrations, *This is a Story* shares the magic of books – the endless possibilities of learning, imagination, and creativity. This beautifully crafted book weaves together the connectedness of people through their curiosity to learn and their desire to discover through books.

### Activities

- ▶ **Create a book.** Invite your child to create their own story illustrated with pictures. Provide a few sheets of paper and encourage them to draw pictures and write a few words under each image. If they need help, offer to dictate their words. Staple or bind the pages together and add a title to their story.
- ▶ **Visit a library.** Visit a library together and explore the different books available to young children. Connect with a librarian and ask about library events such as family story times, music and singing, science demonstrations, or other children's events.
- ▶ **Host a reading party.** The children gather in the library to read their chosen books. Gather a few stuffed animals, family, or friends and read your child's favorite books. Peek inside the book sleeve on *This is a Story* for a bonus poster!

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

## Get to Know John Schu

Meet author John Schu, passionate advocate of early literacy. As a teacher-librarian, he spends his time visiting schools across the globe to share his books and meet students. As a children's librarian at Bookelicious and part-time lecturer at Rutgers University, John has the opportunity to share his love of books with a wide audience.

He says that books and reading have a certain magical aspect. Books bring readers on a journey that could be full of wonder or imagination. Reading opens the possibility to learn, dream, and aspire. Schu spends his time advocating for the things he cares most about: kids, books, and schools —and the libraries (and librarians) that connect them.

About his book, *This is a Story*, he says, "Books can inspire us, connect us, and make us more compassionate. I cannot wait to share this love letter to stories and libraries with readers." Check out [John Schu's work](#) as an author and advocate.



## 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 *This is a Story* by John Schu. Join Teacher Nate to create images of a list of favorites! Explore your child's interests and have them create a picture of everything they love.

[Watch the video here!](#)

## Storytelling/Reading Tips

### Connect the story to your child's life.

As you read stories, make text-to-self connections for you and your child. Reading becomes more meaningful when children can relate what they read to their own lives.

In *Leo Goes on a Hike*, point out how Leo and his dad get ready to leave the house such as putting on his shoes and packing snacks. Discuss how you get ready to leave the house or what snacks you eat.

When reading *This is a Story*, point out features from your life and city. Have you also seen a bridge in your city or perhaps flown a kite in the park? What kind of stories does your child enjoy reading? Find a book that interests them, such as a book about dinosaurs or horses. Visit the local library together like the family does in the story and discuss what was similar or different about your experience.

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

