Suggested Summer Books for Montessori Students

**I want a Dog** (and others) by John Agee

The Copley County Animal Shelter has an aardvark, a lizard, a goose, a weasel, and plenty more. But do they have a puppy? The girl with her wagon is ready to adopt a dog—not an aardvark, lizard, or goose! Can the shelter manager help her to find her perfect pet?

**How to Care for your T-Rex** by Ken Baker (text) & illus. by Dave Coverly

The author uses the responsibility of pet care to deliver fun dino facts (“A T-Rex can cover fifteen feet in a single step”) in this super silly story. Brushing and flossing nine-inch teeth is particularly challenging; a boy teaches him not to eat the floor, and when the dinosaur rolls over, the fence breaks. *Billy Twitters and his Blue Whale Problem* by Mac Barnett and *How to Train a Train* by Jason Carter Eaton are other funny problem-with-a-pet stories.

**Pig the Pug** (series) by Aaron Blabey

Pig is a greedy and selfish Pug. He has all the bouncy balls, bones, and chew toys a dog could ever want yet he refuses to share with his poor friend, Trevor. Little does he know, however, that being greedy has its consequences.

**The Mitten** (and others) by Jan Brett

When Nicki drops his white mitten in the snow, he goes on without realizing that it is missing. One by one, woodland animals find it and crawl in, each one larger than the next. Finally, a big brown bear is followed in by a tiny brown mouse and what happens next makes for a wonderfully funny climax.

**Aaron Slater, Illustrator** and others from the Questioneers picture books by Andrea Beaty

Aaron Slater loves listening to stories and dreams of one day writing them himself. But when it comes to reading, the letters just look like squiggles to him. When his teacher asks each child in the class to write a story, Aaron can't get a single word down. He is sure his dream of being a storyteller is out of reach... until inspiration strikes, and Aaron finds a way to spin a tale in a way that is uniquely his.

**Very Hungry Caterpillar, Very Busy Spider**, and others by Eric Carle

Follows the progress of a hungry little caterpillar as he eats his way through a varied and very large quantity of food until, full at last, he forms a cocoon around himself and goes to sleep and wakes up a butterfly.
**Bubbles... UP!** by Jacqueline Davies (text) & illus. by Sonia Sánchez

A community pool is a place of wonder. A small girl gives readers the tour, to follow the bubbles up until you break the surface, and dive back in. All in the pool celebrate life under water. Similes communicate the motion amid bubbles “light as butterflies,” as the girl urges her body up to “surface like a porpoise” and “shoot like a rocket ship.”

**Last Stop on Market Street** by Matt De La Pena

A young boy, CJ, rides the bus across town with his grandmother and learns to appreciate the beauty in everyday things. (Winner of Newbery Medal and Caldecott Honor Awards)

**Llama Llama** (series) by Anna Dewdney

In this infectious rhyming read-aloud, Baby Llama turns bedtime into an all-out llama-drama. Young children will relate to Baby Llama’s need for comfort, as much as parents will appreciate Mama Llama’s reassuring message.

**The Rabbit Listened** by Cori Doerrfeld

When something sad happens, Taylor doesn’t know where to turn. All the animals are sure they have the answer, but they fail to offer comfort. Then the rabbit arrives. All the rabbit does is listen . . . which is just what Taylor needs. *The Rabbit Listened* is about how to comfort and heal the people in your life, by taking the time to lovingly and gently listen.

**Where is the Green Sheep?** by Mem Fox

The search is on for green sheep in this silly hide-and-seek rhyme. Guaranteed giggles as Pre-K readers search for the missing green sheep among his active, colorful friends.

**Favorite Nursery Rhymes from Mother Goose** illustrated by Scott Gustafson

From nonsense to lessons learned, these 45 rhymes include the very well known (Itsy Bitsy Spider) and the somewhat familiar (Hickety, Pickety, My Black Hen). Other excellent collections of nursery rhymes by different illustrators are available as well.

**Tomorrow I'll Be Kind** by Jessica Hische, illustrated by Jessica Hische

Adorned with carefully crafted hand-lettering and illustrations, this sweet read emphasizes that kindness is made of small, ordinary choices. Jessica Hische is also the author of *Tomorrow I’ll Be Brave.*
The Incredible Book Eating Boy (and others) by Oliver Jeffers

Henry eats books, and he gets smarter. And sometimes, it's a problem. Any book-loving adult is going to eat this story up alongside their child.

Oliver Jeffers is the author of many hilarious and clever books, including the Huey series and the Penguin and Boy books.

(Not) series by Anna Kang & Christopher Weyant

In You Are (Not) Small, two fuzzy creatures can't agree on who is small and who is big, until a couple of surprise guests show up, settling it once and for all! Followed by I Am (Not) Scared, We Are (Not) Friends, and That's (Not) Mine.

Big Red Lollipop by Rukhsana Khan

Rubina has been invited to her first birthday party, and her mother insists that she take her little sister along. Not only does Sana demand to win every game, but after the party she steals Rubina's prized party favor, a red lollipop. What's a fed-up big sister to do?

Grumpy Monkey by Suzanne Lang, illustrated by Max Lang

Jim the chimpanzee is in a terrible mood for no good reason. His friends can't understand it – how can he be in a bad mood when it's SUCH a beautiful day? They encourage him not to hunch, but to smile and do things that make THEM happy. But Jim can't take all the advice. Could it be that he just needs a day to feel grumpy?

Pete the Cat and the Perfect Pizza Party (and other Pete the Cat books) by Eric Litwin

Our 2, 3, and 4 year olds love Pete the Cat. In Pete the Cat and the Perfect Pizza Party, Pete thinks he’s planned the perfect pizza party as he piles the pie high with his favorite topping—pepperoni. But then his friends come over and add their own toppings to the pizza. Will Pete's perfect pizza be ruined? There’s only one way to find out! Also check out Litwin’s other Pete the Cat picture books and early readers.

I'm Brave (series) by Kate & Jim McMullan

Travel with a brave (and good-looking fire) truck as he shows off his tools and races bravely to put out a major blaze. Follow up with I'm Bad!, I'm Dirty!, I'm Mighty!, I Stink! and others. This series has been turned into a television program for toddlers titled The Stinky and Dirty Show.

The Book with No Pictures by B.J. Novak

You might think a book with no pictures seems boring and serious. Except . . . here’s how books work. Everything written on the page has to be said by the person reading it aloud. Even if the words say . . . BLORK. Or BLUURF.

Cleverly irreverent and irresistibly silly, The Book with No Pictures is one that kids will beg to hear again and again. (And parents will be happy to oblige.)
**If You Give a**… (series) by Laura Numeroff

"If you give a mouse a cookie, he's going to ask for a glass of milk. When you give him the milk, he'll probably ask you for a straw. . . ". So begins this delightful story about an energetic mouse and an accommodating little boy.

**The Little Mermaid** (and others) by Jerry Pinkney

Caldecott medalist Jerry Pinkney's singular reinvention of Hans Christian Andersen's classic about love and sacrifice empowers children with the strong message that "you should never give up your voice . . . for anyone" and has been called the "definitive new version for our time."

Jerry Pinkney has written and/or illustrated dozens of children's books. His son, Brian Pinkney, and daughter-in-law Andrea Davis Pinkney are also prolific authors.

**¡Vamos! Let's Go To The Market** (and others) by Raúl the Third

Bilingual in a new way, this colorful adventure teaches readers simple words in Spanish as they experience the bustling life of a border town. Follow Little Lobo and his dog Bernabe as they deliver supplies to a variety of vendors, selling everything from sweets to sombreros, portraits to piñatas, carved masks to comic books! Follow with other books from the World of ¡Vamos! - Let's Go Eat, Let's Cross the Bridge, and more.

**The Paper Kingdom** by Helena Ku Rhee, illustrated by Pascal Campion

When the babysitter can't come, a sleepy Daniel has to climb out of bed and join his parents as they head to their jobs as nighttime office cleaners. To make the experience less boring for Daniel, his parents reimagine the office as a magical paper kingdom with dragons and kings. It's an incredibly sweet story of a loving family that turns an ordinary night into something extraordinary.

**Roto and Roy: Helicopter Heroes** (and others) by Sharon Duskey Rinker

When a dangerous forest fire burns out of control, helicopter Roto and pilot Roy are ready to fly to the rescue! She's braver than brave, he's tougher than tough, and nothing will stop this firefighting crew from completing their mission. Rinker’s other books include Steam Train, Dream Train and the Mighty, Mighty Construction Site books.

**Dragons Love Tacos** by Daniel Rubin

Dragons love tacos. They love chicken tacos, beef tacos, great big tacos, and teeny tiny tacos. So if you want to make friends with a dragon, you should definitely have a taco party. With buckets and buckets of tacos. Pantloads of tacos. Unfortunately, where there are tacos, there is also salsa. But don’t let the dragons eat spicy salsa, because if that happens, you’re in for trouble!
I Got the Rhythm by Connie Schofield-Morrison and Frank Morrison

On a simple trip to the park, the joy of music overtakes a mother and daughter. The little girl hears a rhythm coming from the world around her—suddenly everything is musical!

One Fish, Two Fish, Red Fish, Blue Fish (and others) by Dr. Seuss

Beginning with just five fish and continuing into flights of fancy, One Fish Two Fish Red Fish Blue Fish celebrates how much fun imagination can be.

Fox in Socks, also by Dr. Seuss, will have your child giggling as you attempt the tongue twisters, and as they get older, playing along.

Scaredy Squirrel series by Melanie Watt

Scaredy Squirrel never leaves his nut tree. It's way too dangerous out there. But in his tree, every day is the same and if danger comes along, he's well-prepared. Day after day he watches and waits, and waits and watches, until one day...his worst nightmare comes true! Scaredy suddenly finds himself out of his tree, where germs, poison ivy and sharks lurk. But as Scaredy Squirrel leaps into the unknown, he discovers something really uplifting...

Max & Ruby (series) by Rosemary Wells

In Bunny Cakes, Max makes an earthworm cake for Grandma's birthday and helps Ruby with her angel surprise cake. Other books about Max and his bossy older sister Ruby include Max's Dragon Shirt, Max and Ruby at the Warthogs' Wedding, and Grandma's Treasure Hunt.

The Bear Books by Karma Wilson

Join Bear and his animal friends for their many adventures in the forest with the loveable series from bestselling duo Karma Wilson and Jane Chapman!

How Do Dinosaurs... (series) by Jane Yolen

Just like kids, dinosaurs have difficulty behaving sometimes. This series includes How Do Dinosaurs Eat Their Food, How Do Dinosaurs Say I Love You, How Do Dinosaurs Go to School, How Do Dinosaurs Say Goodnight, and others.

The Pigeon books, Elephant & Piggy, Unlimited Squirrels and others by Mo Willems

Mo Willems has created fantastic books for young readers and pre-readers. The Pigeon books put the reader in charge of saying "No!". Elephant & Piggy are fun read-alouds as well as being excellent read-togethers for emerging readers. The Unlimited Squirrels are slightly more advanced with A-corny jokes and other squirrelly fun.
First Day of School books

The change in routine that comes with the first day of school can be worrisome, even for children returning to a familiar place. These books address those worries and can help children start the year with confidence.

**Wemberly Worried** (and others) by Kevin Henkes

A mouse named Wemberly, who worries about everything, finds that she has a whole list of things to worry about on the first day of school. Henkes speaks directly to the heart of worriers everywhere in a universal story about making friends and growing up.

**The Day You Begin** by Jacqueline Woodson, illustrated by Rafael López

The first day of school can be scary. Jacqueline Woodson's lyrical text and Rafael López's dazzling art reminds us that we all feel like outsiders sometimes — and it's brave that we go forth anyway. Sometimes, when we reach out and begin to share our stories, others will be happy to meet us halfway.

**Ruby the Copycat** by Peggy Rathman

It's the first day of school, and Ruby is new. When her classmate Angela wears a red bow in her hair, Ruby comes back from lunch wearing a red bow, too. When Angela wears a flowered dress, suddenly Ruby's wearing one, too. Fortunately, Ruby's teacher knows a better way to help Ruby fit in, by showing how much fun it is to be herself.

**We Don't Eat our Classmates** by Ryan Higgins

It's the first day of school for Penelope Rex, and she can't wait to meet her classmates. But it's hard to make human friends when they're so delicious! That is, until Penelope meets the class pet and finds she may not be at the top of the food chain after all.

**Llama Llama Back to School** by Anna Dewdney

Summer days are getting shorter and it's almost time for the first day of school for Llama! But Llama Llama isn't ready for summertime to end. It's been full of backyard camping, family picnics, and ice cream with friends. All he wants is for summer to go on forever! He's anxious about his first day back at school but maybe, with some help from his friends and Mama Llama, going back to school will be fun after all!

**School's First Day of School** by Adam Rex

It's the first day of school at Frederick Douglass Elementary and everyone's just a little bit nervous, especially the school itself. What will the children do once they come? Will they like the school? Will they be nice to him?

The school has a rough start, but as the day goes on, he soon recovers when he sees that he's not the only one going through first-day jitters.
Non-fiction

What is that? What does it do? How does that work? Why does it work that way? What's that animal? Where does it live? We see children's fascination with the world reflected in their myriad questions. Non-fiction books provide factual answers to their questions. They are also a great resource for parents to support “let's look it up” when one simply doesn't know the answer. Looking it up together in a book provides an interactive, tactile experience for children very different from looking it up on a device or asking Siri/Alexa.

**National Geographic Little Kids First Big Books** (21 titles)

The Nat Geo Little Kids First Big Books combine National Geographic's signature quality of photographs and illustrations with short, easy to read text that is perfect for reading with pre-readers and emerging readers. The *Little Kids First Big Books* series covers an array of topics. A few are shown below. Helpful hint for the parents of dinosaur fans - the *First Big Book of Dinosaurs* includes pronunciation guides. :-)

**DK Readers, Level One** (41 titles)

Dorling Kindersley has been a respected publisher of children’s non-fiction books at all levels for the past 40 years. The DK Level One readers present popular non-fiction topics in short simple sentences, word repetition, and easy-to-read type. Easy to understand and beautifully illustrated, they are excellent read-togethers for both pre-readers and emerging readers. A few of the titles are shown below.
Magazines

Reading magazines is an opportunity for children to read in small sections and explore new interests. Magazines aren’t forever, so they can also be a resource for practicing fine motor skills through cutting out pictures and completing the mazes and other activities that are included.

**Highlights for Children**

*Highlights Magazine* started in 1946 and has become a classic in children’s magazines. From the original *Highlights* publication, the publisher has expanded to include separate magazines for ages 0-2 and 2-5, as well as the original magazine geared towards ages 6-12. They also have a line of books that expand on popular parts of the magazine, such as the Search-and-Find.

**Ranger Rick**

Published by the National Wildlife Federation, the Ranger Rick magazines focus on animals and the natural world. They are written at multiple reading levels, from *Cub* and *Zootles* for pre-readers and early readers, progressing through *Zoobooks*, *Ranger Rick Jr.*, and *Ranger Rick*. *ZooDinos* is a special interest publication for dinosaur fans!

**National Geographic Kids**

From National Geographic, the National Geographic Kids magazines focus mainly on information about animals. *National Geographic Little Kids* is published in an excellent format for little hands with easily accessible content for pre-readers and early readers. *National Geographic Kids* is a great choice for slightly more advanced readers.