Children Love Concept Books!

Concept books are books that expand a child's understanding of an age-appropriate theme or idea, like colors, numbers, opposite or seasons. Concept books are usually the first informational books children read. These books rely on pictures to convey the concepts, from simple sketches to water colors to photographs. They add another way to introduce basic vocabulary and broaden background knowledge, helping prepare children to learn to read, and children love them!

Here is a sampling of concept books available through Fairfax County Public Library.

Concept Books

Numbers

**123 Versus ABC** by Mike Boldt
Numbers think they're the stars of this book, but Letters disagree.

**7 Ate 9: The Untold Story** by Tara Lazar
When 7 is accused of eating 9, worried 6 hires a detective to investigate.

**Baby Goes to Market** by Atinuke
Join Baby and his doting mama at a bustling southwest Nigerian marketplace for a bright, bouncy read-aloud offering a gentle introduction to numbers.

**Goodnight, Numbers** by Danica McKellar
Illustrations and simple text help the reader understand the numbers one to ten and recognize them as they appear all around us, especially at bedtime.

**Hamsters Holding Hands** by Kass Reich
A fun counting board book with loveable hamsters that lead young children from numbers one through ten.

Shapes and Sizes

**Big Bug** by Henry Cole
Beginning with a bug, various objects are revealed as being big and small in comparison with other objects on a farm under the big, big sky.

**City Shapes** by Diana Murray
A young girl walks through the bustling city, while a pigeon flies above, both spotting hidden shapes at every turn.

**Round** by Joyce Sidman
Beautiful illustrations invite readers to search their worlds for round objects in nature like eggs about to hatch, sunflowers stretching toward the sun or planets slowly spinning together for billions of years.

**The Shapes We Eat** by Simone T. Ribke
This book explores shapes by describing various edibles, such as a rectangular cereal bar, a hexagon-shaped cracker and an oval egg.

Colors

**Bear Sees Colors** by Karma Wilson
Bear meets many friends and sees colors everywhere.
“Concept Books” continued from page 1

Golden Domes and Silver Lanterns: A Muslim Book of Colors by Hena Khan
In simple rhyming text a young Muslim girl and her family guide the reader through the traditions and colors of Islam.

Green Is A Chile Pepper: A Book of Colors by Roseanne Thong
A little girl discovers all the bright colors in her Hispanic American neighborhood.

Orange Bear Apple Pear by Emily Gravett
Explores concepts of color, shape, and food using only five simple words, as a bear juggles and plays.

The White Book by Silvia Borando
A boy painting his room finds little surprises coming from the colored part of the wall.

Directions

The Deep, Deep Puddle by Pat Hutchins
During an overnight rainstorm, a large and deep puddle forms across a city street, and the next day increasing numbers of creatures or things disappear into it, from one shaggy dog to nine robbers.

In, Over and On! (the Farm) by Ethan Long
Four farmyard friends illustrate prepositional phrases as they go in and out, over and under, around, on and off.

Up, Down and Around by Katherine Ayres
A garden produces a variety of edible plants, such as corn that grows up, onions that grow down and tomato vines that twine all around.

Alphabet

LMNO Peas by Keith Baker
Busy little peas introduce their favorite occupations, from astronaut to zoologist.

LMNO Pea-quel by Keith Baker
With an exuberant rhyming text and playful pea-packed illustrations, learning the lower case alphabet has never been so much fun.

Oops, Pounce, Quick, Run! An Alphabet Caper by Mike Twohey
A little mouse is asleep until a ball suddenly bounces into his home, setting of an epic chase, from A to Z.

Up Hamster, Down Hamster by Kass Reich
Teaches about opposites using illustrations of hamsters playing and engaging in fun activities.

Z is for Moose by Kelly Bingham
Moose, terribly eager to play his part in the alphabet book his friend Zebra is putting together, then awfully disappointed when his letter passes, behaves rather badly until Zebra finds a spot for him.

Library Shout Out: STEAM Early Literacy Kits

Fairfax County Public Library recently introduced a series of STEAM Early Literacy Kits available for check out. The kit themes are:

Music and Movement
All About Me
My Healthy Body
Buildings and Roads
Nursery Rhymes and Fairy Tales

Each kit includes 5-6 books on the theme, a puppet to use with books and activities, and a list of songs, fingerplays and rhymes related to the theme. The kits also include components for children and caregivers to try several STEAM activities for extended learning.

These kits are not available at any branch; patrons must put them on hold. To place a hold, go to the library’s catalog and search “STEAM name of kit.” The kit will be sent to the requested branch for pick up there.

FCPL’s Early Literacy Services team created the new kits with generous support from the Fairfax County Library Foundation.

www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library