Reading with Dad Book List

FOR YOUNGER CHILDREN

* Baby Dance (1999) by Ann Taylor
A board book in which an African-American father croons to his baby daughter and dances while holding her.

* Because Your Daddy Loves You (2005) by Andrew Clements
When things go wrong during a day at the beach, a father could do a lot of things but always picks the loving one.

* Daddies Are For Catching Fireflies (1999) by Harriet Ziefert
A lift-the-flap book that shows all the special things daddies can do.

* Daddy is a Doodlebug (2000) by Bruce Degen
Written with inventive rhyme, a father bug and his child savor the special joys of companionship.

* Daddy Makes the Best Spaghetti (1986) by Anna Grossnickle Hines
A board book featuring a family with a stay-at-home dad.

* The Daddy Mountain (2004) by Jules Feiffer
A little girl’s step-by-step account of climbing all the way up on top of her daddy’s head.

* Dad’s Dinosaur Day (1993) by Diane Dawson Heard
A dad's behavior changes when he becomes a dinosaur for a day.

* Kevin and His Dad (1999) by Irene Smalls
With Mom away on a Saturday, a father and son spend the whole day together doing household chores and then some fun activities.

* Let’s Play Rough (2000) by Lynne Jonell
A young boy wants to play rough - but not too rough – with his father.

* Lots of Dads (1997) by Shelley Rotner & Sheila M. Kelly
Bright, joyful photos and a simple text show how dads are different and special.

* My Dad (1991) by Debbie Bailey
A board book with photos of a variety of dads and children in everyday settings.

* My Dad (2000) by Anthony Browne
A child exaggerates the many wonderful things about his dad.

* My Daddy is a Giant (2004) by Carl Norac
A young child loves and admires his father – a true giant among men.

* Night Shift Daddy (2000) by Eileen Spinelli
A father who works the night shift has a special bond with his daughter.

* Octopus Hug (1993) by Laurence Pringle
A burly father leads his children into some active games and imaginative play.

* On a Wintry Morning (2000) by Dori Chaconas
A graceful poem of a father and baby bundling up for an early morning outing.

* Papa, Do You Love Me? (2005) by Barbara M. Joosse
When a Masai father in Africa answers his son's questions, the boy learns that his father's love for him is unconditional.

* Pete’s A Pizza (1998) by William Steig
A dad brightens up a rainy day with a fun game of making his son into a pizza.

* Piggy and Dad Go Fishing (2005) by David Martin
When his dad takes Piggy fishing for the first time and Piggy ends up feeling sorry for the worms and the fish, they decide to make some changes.

* Rainy Day (2000) by Emma Haughton
Shortly after his parents have separated, a son spends a rainy day with his father.

* A Special Kind of Love (1995) by Stephen Michael King
A father builds wonderful things out of boxes for his son as his special way of saying “I love you.”
Two Homes (2001) by Claire Masurel
A young boy enjoys the homes of both his parents who live apart but love him very much.

The Very Best Daddy of All (2004) by Marion Dane Bauer (Minnesota Author)
Pictures and rhyming text show how animal, bird, and human fathers take care of their children.

Vroomaloom Zoom (2000) by John Coy (Minnesota Author)
A father takes his daughter on an imaginary car ride, lulling her to sleep with various sounds.

What Dads Can’t Do (2000) by Douglas Wood (Minnesota Author)
A humorous account of how dads show love by explaining all the things they can not do.

FOR OLDER CHILDREN

Animal Dads (1997) by Sneed B. Collard III
Within the natural world, animal fathers have specific roles.

Carlos and the Cornfield/Carlos y la milpa de maíz (1995) by Jan Romero Stevens
In this English/Spanish bilingual story, a boy learns the meaning of his father’s statement, “You reap what you sow.”

Dad and Me in the Morning (1994) by Patricia Lakin
A young deaf boy spends a glorious morning sharing the beauty of a sunrise with his father.

Dad, Jackie, and Me (2005) by Myron Uhlberg
A boy learns the connection between his deaf father and the first black baseball player in the Major Leagues.

* Daddy, Could I Have an Elephant? (1996) by Jake Wolf
A father and son discuss the boy’s exotic ideas about getting a pet.

Daddy Played Music for the Cows (1995) by Maryann Weidt (Minnesota Author)
A daughter’s memories of her father and growing up on a farm.

A collection of short poems honoring fatherhood.

Daddy’s Roommate (1990) by Michael Willhoite
A child with divorced parents lives with his gay father and his partner.

Faraway Home (2000) by Jane Kurtz
A little girl in America worries as her father prepares for a trip to visit his ill mother in Ethiopia.

Fly Away Home (1991) by Eve Bunting
A father and son are homeless and living at the airport.

When a father and son can’t sleep, they take a long drive to the country to count the stars.

Just the Two of Us (2001) by Will Smith
A popular song adds to the story of a father’s love as his child grows from a boy into a man.

Lewis & Papa (1998) by Barbara Joosse
While accompanying his father on the wagon train along the Santa Fe Trail, a young boy discovers what it means to be a man.

Loon Summer (2001) by Barbara Santucci
A girl and her father spend their first summer at the lake without the girl’s mother.

My Father’s Boat (1998) by Sherry Garland
A Vietnamese immigrant tells his son how he learned to fish from his father.

Night Driving (1996) by John Coy (Minnesota Author)
A father and son drive into the night and watch for night animals, swap baseball stories, and keep a lookout for eighteen wheelers.

Owl Moon (1987) by Jane Yolen
On a winter’s night under a full moon, a father and daughter trek into the woods to go owling.

Papa’s Latkes (2004) by Michelle Edwards (Minnesota Author)
A father and his two daughters try to make latkes and celebrate on the first Hanukkah after the girls’ mother died.

* Papa’s Stories (1994) by Dolores Johnson
A little girl enjoys her father reading stories to her, but then discovers he’s telling stories because he can’t read.
Sammy Wakes His Dad (2002) by Chip Emmons
A father, who uses a wheelchair, is reluctant to go fishing with his son until his son’s love finally moves him to action.

The Summer My Father Was Ten (1998) by Pat Brisson
A father tells his son the story of how he damaged a neighbor's tomato garden when he was a boy and what he did to make amends.

Tell Me One Thing, Dad (2004) by Tom Pow
A little girl and her dad have a going-to-bed routine that shows how much they love each other.

Tell Me What We Did Today (2003) by Rick Kupchella (Minnesota Author)
A father and daughter share special time reviewing the real and made-up things that happened during their day.

Two Old Potatoes and Me (2003) by John Coy (Minnesota Author)
After a girl finds two old potatoes at her father's house, they plant and tend them to see if they will grow new potatoes.

Visiting Day (2002) by Jacqueline Woodson
A young girl and her grandmother visit the girl’s father in prison.

The Wall (1990) by Eve Bunting
A little boy and his father visit the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, DC to find the name of the boy’s grandfather.

When Dad’s at Sea (2004) by Mindy L. Pelton
A soldier’s daughter worries about her dad on his mission far away from home.

About this book list
Developed by the Minnesota Humanities Center, the Reading with Dad book list includes quality children’s picture books featuring fathers. Most of these books are readily available through bookstores and libraries. Those marked with an asterisk (*) may be difficult to find in bookstores but can often be located through local libraries.

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