Swim Jim! by Kaz Windness (2022) Ages: 4-7 years
Jim the crocodile is scared of swimming—or rather, of sinking. His family’s swamp is just too deep, too dark, and too big. But maybe he could swim, if only there were a smaller swamp where he could try it on his own terms. Jim wiggle-waggles far and wide until he finds the perfect place. With the help of some floaties and his sisters, Jim just might find the courage to face his fear and show everyone—including himself—that Jim can swim!

To Make by Danielle Davis (2022) Ages: 4-8 years
To make... a cake, a garden, a song, you first gather, then make—and wait. To make a story (like this one), you gather, make, wait. To make anything—big or small—it will take some time. You may have to gather more, make more, and wait a little more, but you can create wonderful things if you just gather, make, and wait. This gorgeous, timeless book gently emphasizes patience as part of the making process and is a fitting book for all homes, classrooms, and makerspaces everywhere.

Rafa Counts on Papá by Joe Cepeda (2022) Ages: 4-8 years
Rafa and his papá love to count and measure together. They know how many branches they climb to their favorite spot, they know how high their dog Euclid can jump, and they know how far they can run. But there’s one thing Rafa can’t count or measure because it is infinite: the love that he and his papá share.

Bearplane! by Deborah Underwood (2022) Ages: 2-5 years
Follow a bear cub, their grownup, and their beloved stuffie Teddy as they make their way through the busy airport and cub's first plane ride. Their destination? A bear-y special family reunion with grandma! This cheerful, rhyming, reassuring go-to for little ones preparing for their first (or second or tenth) flight is a gentle adventure full of accessible bear puns and delightful touches, plus a detailed map of the bear-port on the endpapers. Here’s the shuttle—climb inside. Time for your first bearplane ride!

Elephant Island by Leo Timmers (2022) Ages: 3-6 years
Caught in a storm, Arnold the elephant washes up on a tiny island. Along comes Mouse in a little dingy and Arnold steps aboard… uh-oh! They use the wreckage to make the island bigger. And here’s Dog—can this boat take Arnold's weight? Uh-oh! None of the animals can save the shipwrecked elephant but each broken vessel provides new materials for another intricate construction. Wheels and pulleys create a Ferris wheel, an elevator, a waffle maker. All the animals work as a team to build increasingly intricate constructions that turn the desert island into a fun park city. Soon there is a whole community and enough space for everyone!

Milo's Moonlight Mission by Kathleen M. Blasi (2021) Ages: 4-8 years
Outer space is there for exploring, and Captain Milo is ready for takeoff! If only he didn't have to wait for his Second-in-Command—or as he also calls her, Mom—to report for duty. Yet Mom's list of daily tasks grows ever longer, and she can't launch until they're done. So, like any good captain, Milo offers to help! Work? Check. Dinner? Check. Cleanup? Check. When the weather forecast predicts a middle-of-the-night meteor storm, Captain Milo wants desperately to witness it. But will his Second-in-Command have enough time to accomplish this magical mission with him?

**Who Is It, Whoodini?** by Roman Yasiejko (2022) **Ages: 4-8 years**
Eyes wide with surprise and necks twisting to see, two owls whoo-hooted, "Now who could that be?" When a mysterious bird crashes into a tree, two curious owls—Cahoots and Whoodini—set out to investigate. They fly down to interview their barnyard friends, but after gathering all the clues, they're still stumped... until Whoodini overhears an unexpected hint.

**Little Bot and Sparrow** by Jake Parker (2016) **Ages: 3-6 years**
A story of friendship that can inspire anyone, even robots, to dream... When Little Bot is thrown out with the garbage, he finds himself in a strange new world. Fortunately, Sparrow is there to take him under her wing. Together, they explore the forest, share adventures, and learn what it means to be forever friends.

**Stick and Stone** by Beth Ferry (2015) **Ages: 2-5 years**
When Stick rescues Stone from a prickly situation with Pinecone, a friendship is born. But when Stick gets stuck, can Stone return the favor? With simple rhyming text, subtle messages of kindness and compassion, and Tom Lichtenheld’s signature charm, this delightful story about making and helping friends will enchant readers young and old because it’s never too early—or too late—to stick up for your friends.

**The Invisible Boy** by Trudy Ludwig (2013) **Ages: 5-8 years**
A simple act of kindness can transform an invisible boy into a friend... Meet Brian, the invisible boy. Nobody in class ever seems to notice him or think to include him in their group, game, or birthday party... until, that is, a new kid comes to class. When Justin, the new boy, arrives, Brian is the first to make him feel welcome. And when Brian and Justin team up to work on a class project together, Brian finds a way to shine.

**Awesome!** by Craig Shuttlewood (2018) **Ages: 4-8 years**
Marvin the moose and Woody the beaver are BFFs. But their friendship is tested when Marvin does something totally AWESOME and Woody remains ordinary. The other forest animals now adore Marvin - calling in his new superhero services to help right wrongs, solve problems, and fix trouble. They even build a statue in his honor! Woody watches with envy, hatching a not-so-awesome plan to put all eyes on him. Can Woody and Marvin save their friendship?

**The Sour Grape** by Emily Winfield Martin (2022) **Ages: 5-8 years**
The Sour Grape holds grudges for every reason under the sun. Lime never returned a scarf they borrowed? Grudge! Orange never called back? Grudge! But when a friend holds a grudge against the Sour Grape without listening to an explanation, the Sour Grape realizes how unfair grudges can be. Could a bunch of forgiveness and compassion be enough to turn a sour grape sweet?

**Underwear!** by Jenn Harney (2019) **Ages: 2-6 years**
Bare bear! Stop right there! Underwear! Under where? So begins the dialogue between a tired bear dad and a rambunctious bear cub who would rather play with his tighty whities than get into bed. Underwear makes great hair. It can even turn one into a superber, or a goggle-wearing swimming bear. But beware of a big scare! Rhymes, homonyms, and conjunctions abound in this book that could be used to teach reading, but its primary purpose is to make bedtime fun.