A was an Apple Pie. Illus. by Ettiene Delessert. 1568461968, $18.95. Everyone wanted a piece of “A,” the apple pie. B bit it, J jumped for it, N nodded at it, and T took it! Using a bevy of playful, expressive creatures, Connecticut resident Delessert has reinvigorated a 17th century English nursery rhyme into a lively, captivating picture book for its way, and sets out to find it. Instead of seasons, rich, colorful paintings and many more. (SP)

The Boy Who Loved Bananas. George Elliott. 1553377443, $15.95. A boy visits the zoo and discovers that his favorite animals eat bananas – so he decides to eat ONLY bananas. A silly, crowd-pleasing romp! (CN)

A Chair for Baby Bear. Kaye Umansky, illus. by Chris Fisher. 0761457892, $12.95. The logical and courteous sequel to Goldilocks and the Three Bears. Just right for the preschool crowd with its charming story and amusing pictures. (BTS)

Food for Thought: The Complete Book of Concepts for Growing Minds. Saxton Freymann & Joree Eiffers. 0439910181, $14.95. What can you do with some bizarrely-shaped fruits and vegetables? If you’re Freymann and Eiffers, you’ll turn them into food sculptures so gloriously expressive that preschoolers will be too busy giggling to notice they’re learning shapes, numbers, colors and letters. An offbeat, colorful romp through the produce aisle. (EW)

The Great Blue House. Kate Banks; illus. by Georg Hallensleben. 0374327696, $16.00. In a charming tale of the change of seasons, rich, colorful paintings and descriptive text help depict life at the blue house throughout the year. (MG)

Knuffle Bunny: A Cautionary Tale. Mo Willems. 0786818700, $15.99. A baby who can’t talk yet goes with her dad to the Laundromat and loses her bunny. Her frantic, gibberish is unintelligible – until the beloved “Knuffle Bunny” is recovered. Colorful cartoon-style characters inhabit a Brooklyn neighborhood rendered in sepia toned photographs. Warm, hysterical, and a visual treat! (SR)

Llama Llama Red Pajama. Anna Dewdney. 0670098983, $15.95. Baby Llama has trouble falling asleep in this warm, fuzzy and funny bedtime story for ages 2 and up. (DC, JR)

Chameleon, Chameleon. Joy Cowley; photographs by Nic Bishop. 0439666538, $16.95. Carefully chosen text and exceptional photography combine to follow one brazen chameleon as he ventures from the safety of his tree in search of a new home. Experience close-up the many moods (and colors) of chameleons in this satisfying non-fiction adventure. (CLRSE)

How Do Dinosaurs Eat Their Food? Jane Yolen; illus. by Mark Teague. 0439924102, $15.99. When it comes to table manners, these dino-saurs are etiquette perfection – after they show us what NOT to do, of course! (EH)

The Great Fuzz Frenzy. Janet Stevens & Susan Stevens Crummel. 0152046267, $17.00. It all starts when a dog drops an ordinary tennis ball down a prairie-dog hole. Who knew that tennis ball fuzz could be the source of so much fun? (BK)

Leonardo the Terrible Monster. Mo Willems. 0786852941, $16.99. Mo Willems has another hit with this story of a little monster who, to his dismay, is too cute to be scary. (BK, CLRSE)

Reading Makes You Feel Good. Todd Parr. 0316160040, $15.99. Another wonderfully simple and fun book by Parr, with vibrantly colored illustrations of children reading different kinds of books in all kinds of creative locations. (SP)

Jungle Drums. Graeme Base. 0810950448, $18.95. Ngiri Mogo, the smallest in a big family of African warthogs, wishes he wasn’t so small and that Warthogs weren’t so ugly. When he receives a set of magic drums, he is sure his wishes will come true. What do you think? Extraordinary artwork accompanies this meaningful story. (BJ)

What do you think? Extraordinary artwork accompanies this meaningful story. (BJ)

The Sunset Switch. Kathleen V. Kudlinski, illus. by Lindy Burnett. 1359719168, $15.95. Beautiful illustrations enhance lyrical descriptions of nocturnal animals, and the daytime critters that awaken once they go to sleep. (MS)

Opposites. Robert Crowther. 0765627836, $12.99. A fun, colorful and very creative concept book with a variety of movable parts to illustrate opposing concepts such as up/down, thick/thin, light/dark and many more. (MP1)

Slide, Already! Kit Allen. 0618496432. $12.00. Very simple illustrations wonderfully capture the “agony and thrill” of a boy’s first experience on a slide. (MP2)

10 Little Rubber Ducks. Eric Carle. 0060740752, $19.99. A ship loaded with rubber ducks encounters a storm resulting in 10 tons afloat on the sea. Count as they find new homes and giggle with the surprise at the end. (BJ)

A Chair for Baby Bear. Kaye Umansky, illus. by Chris Fisher. 0761457892, $12.95. The logical and courteous sequel to Goldilocks and the Three Bears. Just right for the preschool crowd with its charming story and amusing pictures. (BTS)

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**Best Books for Babies, Toddlers & Preschoolers**

A list for holiday giving

**Recommended by Connecticut's Children's Librarians**

November 2005

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**Contributors**

- Jane Breen, Bishop's Corner Library / West Hartford (B)
- Nancy Brewer, Ledyard Libraries (CLRSE)*
- Mary-Jane Carle, Bill Memorial Library / Groton (CLRSE)*
- Daria Cesario, Scoville Memorial Library / Salisbury (DC)
- Roberta Donahue, Mystic / Noank Library (CLRSE)*
- Mary Geragotelis, Canterbury Public Library (MG)
- Ellen Harzewski, Wethersfield Public Library (EH)
- Suellen Heinrich, Guilford Free Library (SH)
- Barbara Jones, Wilton Library (BJ)
- Ronna Keith, PT. Noyes Library / Old Lyme (CLRSE)*
- Barbara Klipper, Ferguson Library / Stamford (BK)
- Nadine Lipman, Waterford Public Library (NL)
- Cathy Nelson, Berlin Peck Memorial Library (CN)
- Sue Palmieri, Groton Public Library (CLRSE)*
- Mary Phelan, Derby Neck Library (MP1)
- Shanon Pimentel, Waterford Public Library (SP)
- Mary Proudfoot, Brookfield Library (MP2)
- Judy Rabin, Woodbridge Library (BJ)
- Susan Rooney, Cragin Memorial Library / Colchester (SR)
- Kara Schilling, Trumbull Library System (KS)
- Martha Simpson, Stratford Library Association (MS)
- Kris Staubach, Public Library of New London (CS)
- Barbara Tolve-Silver, Windsor Public Library (BTS)
- Eileen Washburn, Richmond Memorial Library / Marlborough (BW)

*CLRSE-Children’s Librarians’ Roundtable, Southeast Region.

Contributors with this designation developed and submitted their recommendations as a group.

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**About “Love Your Library”**

The CT Library Consortium, the CT Library Association and the CT State Library are partnering with Barnes & Noble Bookellers to “Love Your Library” this holiday season. On Friday, December 2 and Saturday, December 3, Barnes & Noble will donate up to 25% of every sale at Connecticut store locations to Connecticut’s libraries! To qualify, purchases must be accompanied by a “Love Your Library” voucher - we’ve provided one for you at the right. Complete details for this exciting event are available at www.LoveYourLibrary.com.

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**About the CT Library Consortium**

The Connecticut Library Consortium is a non-profit, state-wide membership organization for all types of libraries - public, academic, school, and corporate / special. CLC facilitates a variety of cost-saving and professional services in order to strengthen libraries' ability to serve their users.