



Buzzworthy Announcements

August 2026

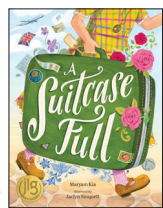
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Reviews



***A Suitcase Full* (9798885549707)**

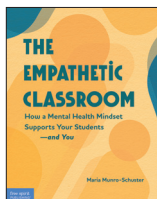
by Maryam Kia

"A heartwarming story of a girl's unconventional childhood reminds readers that everyone carries their own suitcase; the contents of everyone's experiences differ, but all are valuable and important."

—*School Library Journal, Starred Review, July 23, 2026*

"Color-saturated, storybook-like illustrations reference Kimia's home through swirling motifs that replicate patterns found in Nana-joon's abode. Objects of remembrance form an apt through line across this story of constant change."

—*Publishers Weekly, July 21, 2026*



***The Empathetic Classroom* (9798885549431)**

by Maria Munro-Schuster

"For districts navigating escalating student mental health needs, *The Empathetic Classroom* offers practical language and thoughtful nudges toward a more humane instructional core."

—*School Administrator August 2026*

***The Great Dance-On* (9798885544092)**

by Mary Rand Hess and Randy Preston

"This lovely, lively book models self-advocacy and the feelings of joy and empowerment that come from authentic self-expression."

—*Washington Parent June 5, 2026*

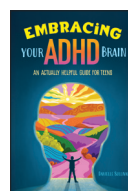
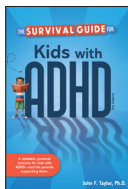


***The Survival Guide for Kids with ADHD* (9798885549622)**

by John F Taylor

"A practical and encouraging guide designed to help children better understand attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) and the challenges that come with it. Recommended for libraries, kids with ADHD, parents, teachers, and counselors seeking guidance."

—*School Library Journal July 2026*



***Embracing Your ADHD Brain* (9798330914081)**

by Danielle Sullivan

"Neurodiversity coach and author Sullivan uses a conversational style and judgment-free tone to help teens understand ADHD in this comprehensive guide. Whether newly diagnosed or simply navigating life with ADHD, readers will garner plenty of tips and encouragement."

—*Booklist August 2026*

"A customizable toolkit to help teens manage their ADHD . . . a useful resource that supports teen agency."

—*Kirkus Reviews August 2026*

"A cheerful and cerebral take on teen ADHD full of definitions, encouraging advice, and writing exercises."

—*Kirkus Reviews August 2026*

***Santiago and Great Bear* (9798885549813)**

by Lisa Johnston Hancock

"Deftly blending lyrical storytelling with astronomy and themes of hope, friendship, and confidence, *Santiago and Great Bear* by author/illustrator Lisa Johnston Hancock will spark children's creativity, while offering a degree of genuine comfort and inspiration to children having to navigate big changes in the lives."

—*Children's Bookwatch, Midwest Book Review July 17, 2026*



"In this beautiful friendship tale, Hancock accompanies the lonely boy's stories with majestic landscape illustrations of the star-filled country sky. This picture book is an excellent introduction to constellations and moon phases."

—*School Library Journal June 2026*

***Your Fantastical Fort* (9798885549295)**

by Molly Beth Griffin

"The illustrations, with their rough and amusing crayon art evocations, are a happy complement to this warm story that celebrates childhood play and nurtures expansive imaginations."

—*Foreword Reviews September/October 2026*



Awards

The Empathetic Classroom (9798885549431), 20th Annual National Indie Excellence Award Winner, Education

Keeping Your Cool When They Can't (9798330905102), 20th Annual National Indie Excellence Award Finalist, Parenting & Family



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Blurbs & Endorsements

Praise for *The Best Good Thing* (9798885549653) by Anna Housley Juster

"Highly recommend! The Best Good Thing is just right for parents who want to both validate their kids' feelings and encourage them to see the good in the world. It can be tricky to hold both in mind (and implement as a parent), but Anna Housley Juster threads the needle just right." —**Hunter Clarke-Fields**, bestselling author of *Raising Good Humans: A Mindful Guide to Breaking the Cycle of Reactive Parenting and Raising Kind, Confident Kids*

Praise for *The Trauma-Informed Educator* (9798330905119) by Brianna Young

"Being human is hard. Guiding young people to heal and flourish is even harder. Dr. Brianna Young reminds us that being a trauma-informed educator doesn't begin with interventions but with curiosity about the dreams and realities shaping how our young people show up. What follows is a guide that's as wise as it is actionable for those seeking human, community-focused restorative solutions." —**Lindsay Ogawa**, Senior Partner, Education Reimagined speaker, educational leader, and founder of LitWorld

Features, Articles & Interviews (cont.)

Tic-errific Me (9798885547529) and *Santiago and Great Bear* (9798885549813) made the Children's Book Council [June Hot Off the Press list](#) (June 1). And *The Survival Guide for Kids with ADHD* (9798885549622) made the [July Hot Off the Press list](#) (July 1).

For Pride Month, the Children's Book Council [curated a booklist to honor the trans and nonbinary communities](#) and included *Jamie Is Jamie* (9781631981395). (June 1)

Papa and Pearl (9798885544511) was included on Erin Dealey's [Summer Reads list](#). (June 2)

Kwame Alexander and his new book, *When Everyone Reads* (9798330916771), were profiled in the Publishers Weekly June 8 issue and [online](#). (June 8, unique monthly visitors: 447,006; print distribution: 68,000)

Soulful Struttin' (9798885545259) made the [Black Music Month book list](#) on Children's Book Council. (June 10)

Dear Dad: Love, Nelson (9781631986819) was included in the Black Children's Books and Authors list of [24 picture books for Father's Day](#). (June 18, unique monthly visitors: 1,500)

Santiago and Great Bear (9798885549813) was part of the [Washington Independent Review of Books of children's books for June](#). (June 22, unique monthly visitors: 22,581)

Uncommonly Curious, Eternally Autistic (9798885547369) and *A Suitcase Full* (9798885549707) were featured in the School Library Journal [article about social-emotional learning](#). (June 22, unique monthly visitors: 102,851; print distribution: 23,000)

The Children's Book Council summer showcase theme was ["these are the people in my neighborhood" and six Free Spirit titles were included: Curious Me!® Neighbors](#) (9798885547079), *Dominique's Thrifted Treasures* (9798765924860), *Hello, Beech Tree!* (9798885540377), *Jamie and Bubbie* (9798885548977), *Jayden's Secret Ingredient* (9781631986024), and *Mabel's Mitzvah* (9798885549769). (June 22)

Multiple titles were included in [Edelweiss's Make Good Trouble list](#), including *Ruby Bridges: One-of-a-Kind Trailblazer* (9798330933457), *Simple Acts* (9781631986260), *The Teen Guide to Global Action* (9781575422664), *You Are There! March on Washington, August 28, 1963* (9781493839292), and *We Can Vote* (9781087606309). (June 24)

For Disability Pride Month, Children's Book Council updated their [Disability Pride Month booklist](#), including *Tic-errific Me* (9798885547529), *I Spark Like Lightning* (9798885547253), and *Uncommonly, Eternally Autistic* (9798885547369) and featured all three of those titles and *More Than What Eyes See* (9798885547307) on their [curated Disability Pride Month booklist](#). (July 1)

Bea's Balikbayan Box of Treasures (9798885546416) made the [APALA 2025 Best of the Best Booklist](#). (July 1)

That Stinks! (9798330925346) and *A Suitcase Full* (9798885549707) were included in the Publishers Weekly [fall 2026 picture book preview](#). (July 13, unique monthly visitors: 447,006)

[A Kids Book a Day highlighted Celebrate We Gullah Geechee](#) (9798330905065), saying, "The lyrical text and brilliantly colored illustrations will whet readers' appetite to travel to this region to explore more—it certainly got me intrigued." (July 17, unique monthly visitors: 3,014)

Anna Housley Juster was on The Children's Book Review with a [cover reveal](#) of *The Best Good Thing* (9798885549653) and interview (July 21), and provided a [list of the best picture books for coping with big feelings](#) (July 28, unique monthly visitors: 13,429).

Mom Loves Best included *Diapers Are Not Forever / Los pañales no son para siempre* (9781575424293) in their list of [13 best potty training books for kids, 2026 picks](#). (July 23, unique monthly visitors: 45,693)

Tulsa Kids included *Birds Sing Their Words* (9798885544542) in their [list of board books to read together](#). (July 27)

Elizabeth Verdick and Olivia Rae, coauthors of *Hi, Worry. Bye, Worry!* (9798885545211), were [interviewed about their book and working together](#). (June 8, print distribution: 10,000)

Alicia Meyers, author of *Tic-errific Me* (9798885547529), was [interviewed by Susanna Hill](#) (June 16) and on [Chelsea's World of Books](#). (June 17)

Lisa Johnston Hancock, author-illustrator of *Santiago and Great Bear* (9798885549813), participated in [an author Q&A on Deborah Kalb's site](#). (June 30, unique monthly visitors: 4,021)

Jake Lockett, author of *My Life as an Asthmanaut* (9798885547970), joined Maria Marshall for a [picture book buzz interview on his book and publishing journey](#) (June 25), was [interviewed on Jena Benton's Simply 7](#) talking about his book and his writing journey (July 10), and appeared on [Stacey Bennett Ramirez's blog about his publishing experience](#). (July 27)

For Disability Pride Month, Jake Lockett was [interviewed by the Courier Express about the publication of My Life as an Asthmanaut](#) (9798885547970, print distribution: 8,750) (July 10); the interview was also published in the Courier Express's [sibling publication, The Progress](#). (July 11, print distribution: 15,000)



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Author News & Events

2026 Author Events

August: Mélina Mangal, Outside Our Window series, [virtual book club](#), Read with Me MN

September 4: Christine Alemshah, **Bea's Balikbayan Box of Treasures** (9798885546416), local author book fair, Norman P. Murray Community Center, Mission Viejo, CA

September 20: Christine Alemshah, **Bea's Balikbayan Box of Treasures** (9798885546416), book festival, Orange County Children's Book Festival, Orange Coast College, Costa Mesa, CA

October 11: Chris Park, **Your Fantastical Fort** (9798885549295), reading and signing, Mall of America rotunda, Bloomington, MN

November 19-22: Sayuri Stabrowski, **Arlo All Over Again** (9798885547642), panel presentation, Anti-Bias Books: Innovative Classroom Strategies to Open Minds and Normalize Diversity, NCTE, Pennsylvania Convention Center, Philadelphia, PA

New Releases

Parenting & Teens Titles



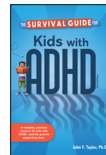
Kwame Alexander



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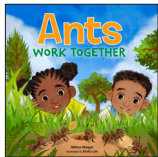


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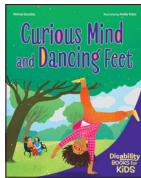


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Picture Books, Board Books, and Professional Development



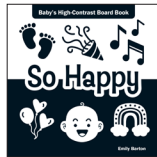
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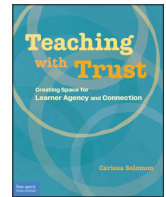
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Disability BOOKS for KIDS

New Series!

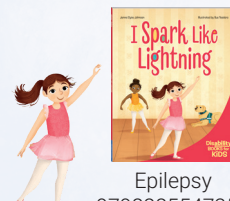
Disability Books for Kids—authentically explores visible and invisible disabilities through the voices of children. Authored by individuals with lived experience, these vibrant and thoughtful books help build inclusive communities, foster empathy, and celebrate disability joy.



Blindness
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Autism
9798885547369



Epilepsy
9798885547253



Asthma
9798885547970



Tourette Syndrome
9798885547529



ADHD
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Dyscalculia
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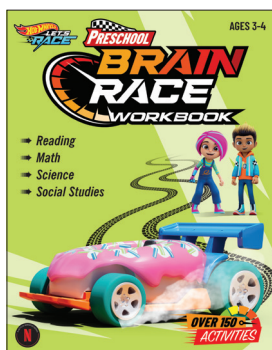


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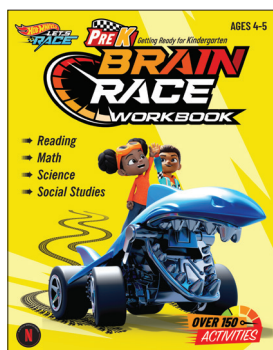
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Fuel children's imagination and skills with fast-paced, Hot Wheels™ themed fun!

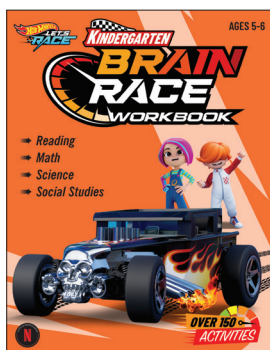
Packed with hands-on activities inspired by the characters and themes from Hot Wheels™ Let's Race animated series on Netflix, these workbooks build key early learning skills in reading, math, science, and social studies, while boosting confidence every step of the way.



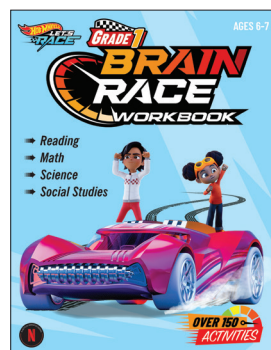
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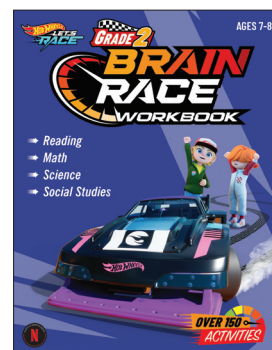
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Workbooks

- ✓ Grade- and age-appropriate exercises
- ✓ Curriculum-aligned activities ensure learning at the right level
- ✓ Full-color pages with favorite Hot Wheels™ Let's Race characters capture and hold attention
- ✓ Simple directions support independent learning
- ✓ A helpful answer key for quick and easy review
- ✓ A certificate to celebrate completion



Speed into learning with Hot Wheels™ Brain Race Flash Cards!

With 101 action-filled cards, kids build early skills in letters, numbers, shapes, colors, and thinking—making school readiness a fast, fun adventure.

9798330922765

Available July 2026

Workbooks

Paperback · Full-color 8.5 in x 11 in. · 176 pages
Preschool through Grade 2

Flash Cards

Boxed · Full-color, Double-sided · Card Size 3.5 in x 5.375 in · 101 Cards
Preschool through Kindergarten/Ages 3-6
Includes foldout instructions for games and parent support.



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