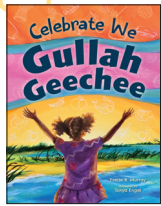




# Buzzworthy Announcements

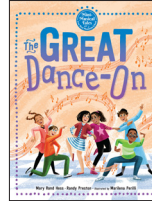
March 2026

## Reviews



**Celebrate We Gullah Geechee** (9798330905065)  
by Yvette R Murray

"This picture book honors the history and the present of the Gullah Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor . . . the acrylic and oil illustrations capture the vibrant colors and energy of a thriving culture and people—and might just whet your appetite, too."  
—Foreword Reviews, Jan/Feb 2026

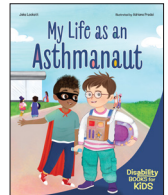


**The Great Dance-On** (9798885544092)  
by Mary Rand Hess and Randy Preston

"This is a good story of everyone working together for a common cause."  
—Children's Bookwatch, Midwest Book Review, February 17, 2026

**My Life as an Asthmanaut** (9798885547970)  
by Jake Lockett

"I wish this book existed when my son was young and struggling to manage his asthma. It would have made him feel less alone."  
—Chris Nee, creator of Doc McStuffins



## Awards

**What Does Grief Feel Like?** (9781631987069), 2025 New Mexico Book Award Winner, Parenting & Family



## Features, Articles & Highlights

**Celebrate We Gullah Geechee** (9798330905065), was included in Poetry for Children's [sneak peek list of poetry for young people in 2026](#). (January 15)

**It's Their World** (9798885547949) and the finalists for the Minnesota Book Awards were announced, including mentions in the [Pioneer Press](#) (January 28, unique visitors per month: 1,098,364) and the [Grand Rapids Herald-Review](#) (February 1, unique visitors per month: 20,473).

**Celebrate We Gullah Geechee** (9798330905065) was included in the Children's Book Council [February Hot Off the Press](#) (February 2).

**A Suitcase Full** (9798885549707), **The Best Good Thing** (9798885549653), and **Mabel's Mitzvah** (9798885549769) were included in the Publishers Weekly fall 2026 children's sneak previews. (February 6, unique visitors per month: 428,986).

**Celebrate We Gullah Geechee** (9798330905065), **Dominique's Thrifted Treasures** (9798765924860), **James Finds the Beat** (9798885545303), **Jayden's Impossible Garden** (9781631985904), and **Soulful Struttin'** (9798885545259) were included in the Children's Book Council [Black History Month and Beyond](#) [booklist](#). (February 12)

**Celebrate We Gullah Geechee** (9798330905065) was included in the Washington Independent Review of Books [roundup of children's books for February](#). (February 16, unique visitors per month: 27,870)

The Children's Book Council [featured Free Spirit Publishing in one of their publisher profiles](#), where 18 books were included (February 20).

## Author News & Events

### Author Preorder Partnerships

Check out these exciting preorder campaigns, created by authors in partnership with local bookstores.

- **I Spark Like Lightning** (9798885547253) at [Ruby's Books](#)
- **My Life as an Asthmanaut** (9798885547970) at [Fable Tree Bookshop](#)
- **Arlo All Over Again** (9798885547642; pub date April 21, 2026) at [Books of Wonder](#)

### 2026 Author Events

March 6: Jessica Whipple, **I Think I Think a Lot** (9798885540087), school visit at Carter & MacRae Elementary, Lancaster, PA

March 7: Yvette R Murray, **Celebrate We Gullah Geechee** (9798330905065), reading and book sale at the Celebration of Legacy, Park Circle, North Charleston, SC

March 12: Yvette R Murray, **Celebrate We Gullah Geechee** (9798330905065), Litchfield Tea and Poetry Reading, Georgetown County Library, Georgetown, SC

March 14: Yvette R Murray, **Celebrate We Gullah Geechee** (9798330905065), book sale at the Dream Girls conference, Summerville, SC

March 22: Christine Alemshah, **Bea's Balikbayan Box of Treasures** (9798885546416), storytime at Barnes & Noble, Victorville, CA

March 28: Rasha Hamid, **Uncommonly Curious, Eternally Autistic** (9798885547369), Poughkeepsie Children's Book Festival appearance, Dutchess Community College, Poughkeepsie, NY

April 9: Lucy Payne, **Academic Intervention Success** (9798330903740), presenting at the National Catholic Education Association Convention, Minneapolis, MN

April 16: Jake Lockett, **My Life as an Asthmanaut** (9798885547970), book signing at the Pennsylvania School Librarian Association Conference, Blair County Convention Center in Altoona, PA

April 18: Dan McCauley, **Thank You, World series**, appearance at LA Times Festival of Books, Los Angeles, CA

April 19: Miso Kwak, **More Than What Eyes See** (9798885547307), book event at A Room of One's Own, Madison, WI

June 30: Lisa Johnston Hancock, **Santiago and Great Bear** (9798885549813), launch event at The Haunted Bookshop, Mobile, AL

July 18: Lisa Johnston Hancock, **Santiago and Great Bear** (9798885549813), bookstore event at Bel Canto Books, Long Beach, CA



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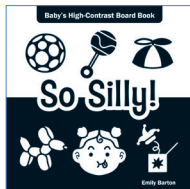
March 2026

## New Releases

### New High-Contrast Board Book Series!

Baby's First Moments is a series of six original board books featuring high-contrast black-and-white illustrations that promote cognitive growth and emotional connection in babies while their eyes are developing. Each book features a unique theme relevant to an infant's early experiences: nature, family, home, feelings, play, and bedtime.

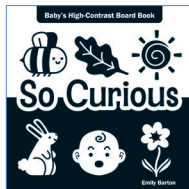
Available January 2026



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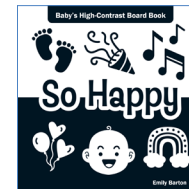


9798330923328

Available August 2026



9798330923359



9798330923366



9798330923373

## Fun, Confidence-Boosting Learning with Barbie™ and Friends!

Make learning inspiring with Barbie™ Dream School Workbooks. Bright colors, beloved characters, and fun activities support reading, math, science, and social studies for preschool through grade 2.



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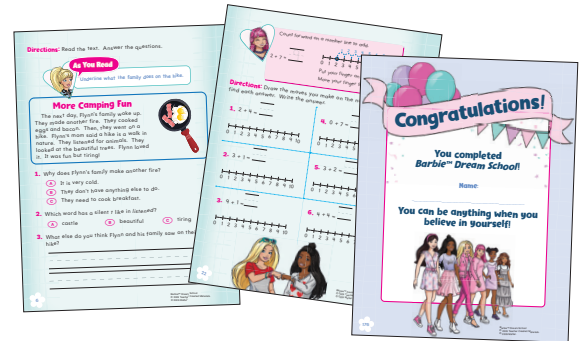


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Releasing in April!

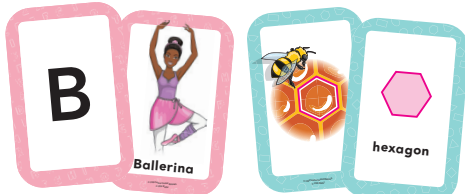
### Workbooks

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



Barbie™ Dream School Flash Cards make learning fun with 101 double-sided, durable cards that teach letters, numbers, shapes, colors, and thinking skills.

- ✓ Oversized, durable flashcards are perfect for little hands
- ✓ Fun, engaging art keeps children interested
- ✓ A foldout parent guide includes ideas, tips, and parent support!



### 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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