

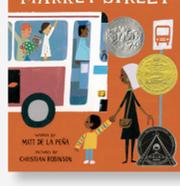
10 Books About Kindness for Kids Ages 3-5

by Melissa Taylor



Photo credit: FatCamera, E+Collection/Getty Images

For parents who value kindness over other things, we start at home. But in addition to being positive role models there, it's also valuable to provide intentional opportunities to teach and practice kindness so children are even better prepared to exercise this virtue in the real world. One way is to read thought-provoking picture books that prioritize the value of kindness.



Last Stop on Market Street

by Matt de la Peña, illustrated by Christian Robinson

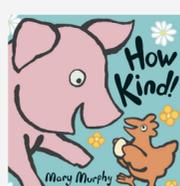
After church, CJ and Nana ride the bus to a soup kitchen. As they ride, CJ peppers Nana with questions that reveal Nana's insightful perspective about life, economic and cultural differences, and the beauty found even in unexpected places. This Caldecott-winning story is packed with diversity, a warm, multi-generational relationship, and the truth that we can choose the lens through which we see the world.



Kindness Counts 123

by R.A. Strong, illustrated by Ekaterina Trukhan

From one to 10, notice all the ways that kids can be kind to others. Maybe it's reading five books to siblings or giving six cans of food to the food pantry. Charming, colorful illustrations show happy, diverse children modeling 10 doable acts of kindness.



How Kind!

by Mary Murphy

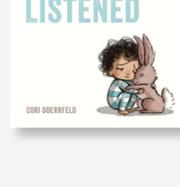
Generosity and kindness abound in this circular story about animals paying it forward. Read how one small act of kindness leads to similar thoughtful actions in a kindness chain of events.



Tomorrow I'll Be Kind

by Jessica Hische

Hische, the author and illustrator of *Tomorrow I'll Be Brave*, continues to inspire children with a new book that encourages readers to be intentionally kind. In addition to the book's positive message, beautiful hand-lettering and charming illustrations make this a visual feast for the eyes.



The Rabbit Listened

by Cori Doerrfeld

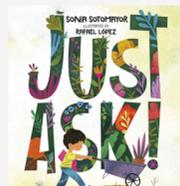
Taylor's animal friends try to help her feel less sad with a variety of helpful suggestions. However, it's not until Rabbit arrives and sits quietly with Taylor that Taylor can finally feel her feelings, starting with the sadness. The message is simple yet powerful - being present with a friend is better than trying to fix their problems.



I Am Kind: A Little Book About Abraham Lincoln

by Brad Meltzer, illustrated by Christopher Eliopoulos

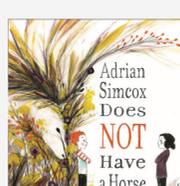
At first glance, it seems that this board book is about one of the most famous presidents of the United States, Abraham Lincoln. But it's actually a book more about kindness. Read how Lincoln's voice is soft, loud, and most of all kind. Then, see if you can be kind like President Lincoln.



Just Ask!

by Sonia Sotomayor, illustrated by Rafael López

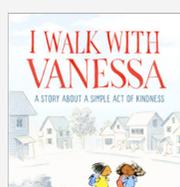
Lavishly illustrated, this sensitive book celebrates children with physical and neurological differences, showing that each child has special gifts. The book includes open-ended questions directed towards readers, which promote thinking and build empathy. As the book progresses, readers will notice that the children are working together to build a community garden.



Adrian Simcox Does NOT Have a Horse

by Marcy Campbell, illustrated by Corinna Luyken

Adrian Simcox tells everyone that he has a horse, but Chloe knows that Adrian is lying. After hurting Adrian's feelings, Chloe and her mother walk to Adrian's small house where she realizes that Adrian does have a horse ... in his wonderfully big imagination. Her eyes are opened to a different perspective, which transforms her judgmental feelings into compassionate ones.



I Walk with Vanessa: A Story About a Simple Act of Kindness

by Kerascoet

This beautifully-nuanced wordless picture book shows a lonely, new classmate being bullied and left out. When another girl notices this unfair treatment, she shows the new girl kindness by walking home with her. This small act of kindness leads to more inclusion and friendships in their whole community.



K is for Kindness

by Jodie Shepherd, illustrated by Tom Brannon

Elmo wants to earn his Kindness Monster Scout badge. He practices being kind to his neighbors and friends. He shares, helps a sad friend and older folks, is kind to animals, and practices other similar thoughtful behaviors including turning Oscar's frown upside down. (Which isn't easy.)

Melissa Taylor

Melissa Taylor, MA, is a teacher, mama, and writer from Colorado. Her goal in childhood was to read every book in the children's section of the library. She loves (in no particular order) children's books, her Kindle, Pinterest, and knitting rectangles. An education expert, she's written for many publications, including Parenting.com, *USA Today Health*, and *Scholastic Parent and Child*. Connect with Melissa on her learning blog, Imagination Soup, or on Pinterest.