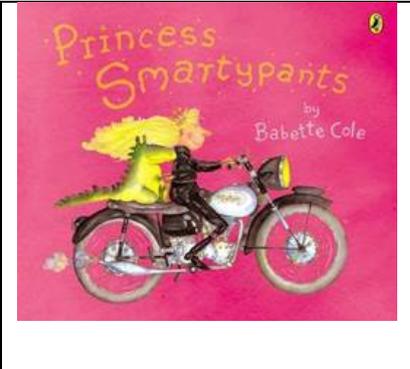
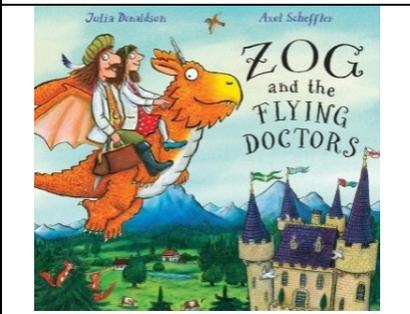
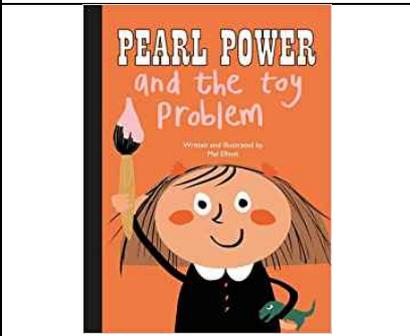
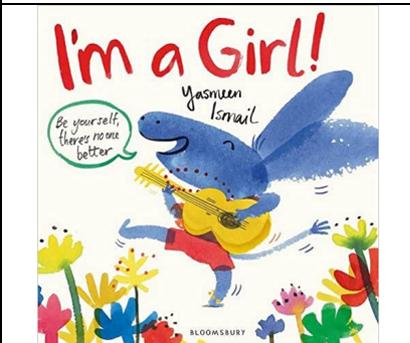
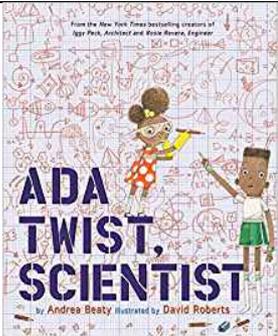


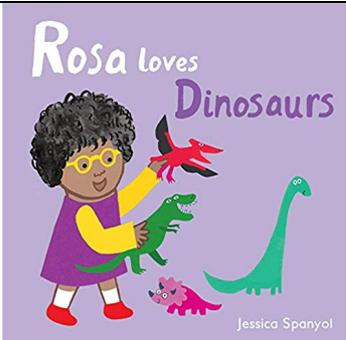
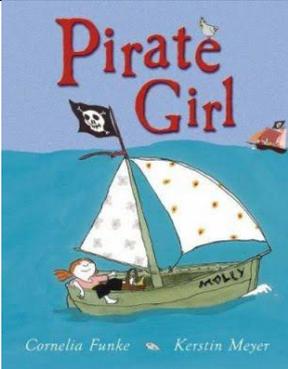
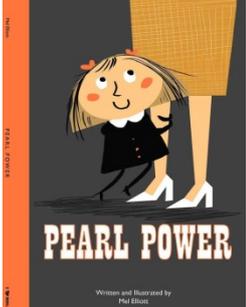
## Book suggestions for 2-5 year olds *(grouped loosely by theme)*

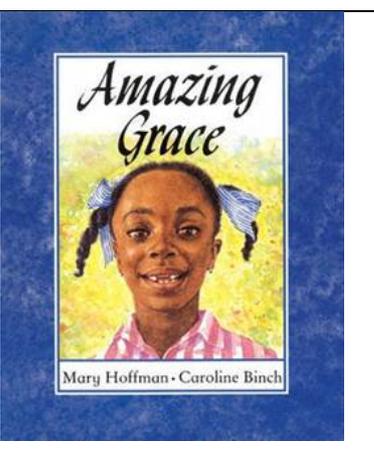
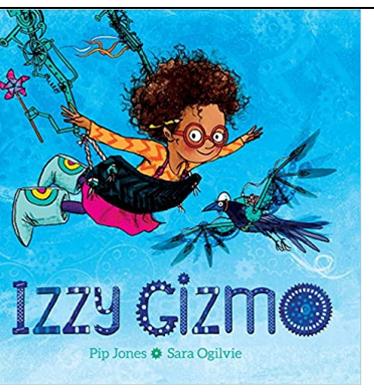
### Directly challenging stereotypes

	<p><i>Princess Smartypants</i> by Babette Cole - age guide 3+</p>	<p>Princess Smartypants does not want to get married. She enjoys being a Ms. But being a rich and pretty princess means that all the princes want her to be their Mrs. Find out how Princess Smartypants fights to preserve her independence.</p>
	<p><i>Zog and the Flying Doctors</i> by Julia Donaldson, illustrated by Axel Scheffler – age guide 3+</p>	<p>Pearl is a princess and a doctor, but her uncle the King thinks that Pearl should act more like a ‘proper princess’</p>
	<p><i>Pearl Power and the Toy Problem</i> by Mel Elliott – age guide 4+</p>	<p>In this rhyming picture book, Pearl shows us that there is no such thing as "girl toys" and "boy toys", and she writes letters to the advertising industry and the ‘TV Boss’ to tell them so too.</p>
	<p><i>I'm a Girl!</i> By Yasmeen Ismail age guide 2+</p>	<p>An energetic and funny celebration of being who we are and not being pigeon-holed or restricted by gender stereotypes. Who says that pink is for girls and blue is for boys?</p>

	<p><i>Ada Twist, Scientist</i> by Andrea Beaty, illustrated by David Roberts – age guide 4+</p>	<p>A rhyming story that celebrates the power of curiosity, scientific enquiry and smashes stereotypes</p>
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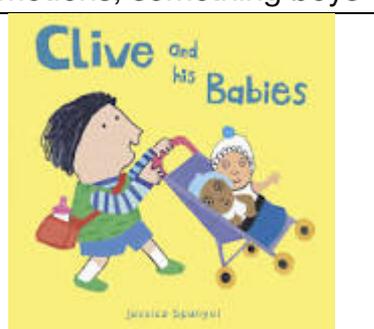
### Strong female leads

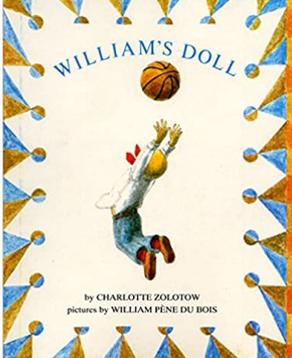
	<p><i>Rosa Love Dinosaurs</i> by Jessica Spanyol – age guide 2+</p>	<p>Rosa likes playing with dinosaurs.... Part of a series, <i>All About Rosa</i>, which celebrates inclusivity and promotes gender equality</p>
	<p><i>Pirate Girl</i> by Cornelia Funke, illustrated by Kerstin Meyer – age guide 4+</p>	<p>Molly, pirate daughter of Barbarous Bertha, is captured by Captain Firebeard when she sails off on her own to visit her granny...</p>
	<p><i>Pearl Power</i> by Mel Elliott – age guide 4+</p>	<p>Pearl has had to move house because her mum has been promoted to 'The Boss'. At Pearl's new big school she encounters Sebastian, a little boy who is keen to suggest that Pearl goes about everything 'like a girl'.</p>

	<p><i>Amazing Grace</i> by Mary Hoffman, illustrated by Caroline Birch – age guide 4+</p>	<p>Grace loves to act out stories. When her school decides to perform <i>Peter Pan</i>, Grace is longing to play Peter, but her classmates say that Peter was a boy, and besides, he wasn't black... But Grace's Ma and Nana tell her she can be anything she wants if she puts her mind to it...</p>
	<p><i>Izzy Gizmo</i> by Pip Jones, illustrated by Sara Ogilvie – age guide 4+</p>	<p>Izabelle Gizmo just loves to invent, but her inventions never seem to work the way she wants them to. When she finds a crow with a broken wing she just has to help. But will she be able to put her frustrations to one side and help her new friend to fly again?</p>

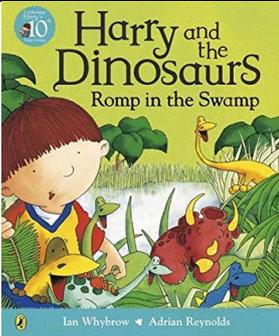
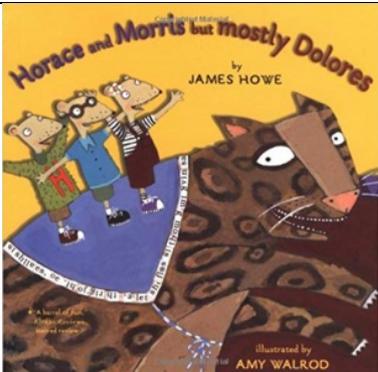
### Emotions and caring boys

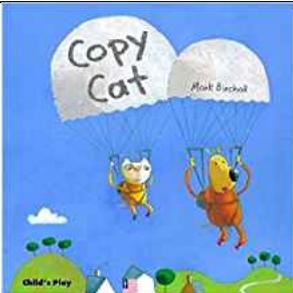
It's important to show boys in caring roles so that boys and girls can see that caring is not just 'for girls'. Role-play and imaginative play help all children to develop their language and communication skills, which also helps them to express their emotions, something boys can sometimes miss out on.

	<p><i>Clive and His Babies</i> by Jessica Spanyol – age guide 2+</p>	<p>Clive likes to look after his babies... Part of a series, <i>All About Clive</i>, celebrating diversity and challenging gender stereotypes</p>
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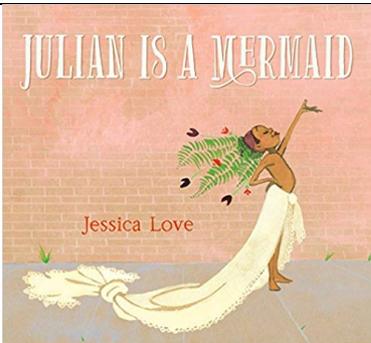
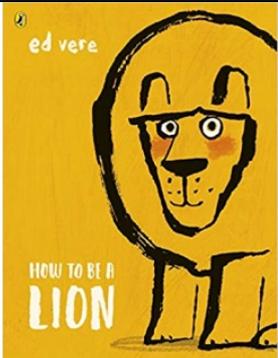
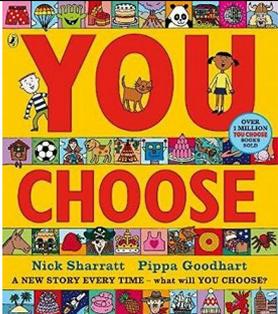
	<p><i>Feelings</i> by Libby Walden, illustrated by Richard Jones – age guide 4+</p>	<p>Explore a world of emotions with this peep-through rhyming picture book</p>
	<p><i>William's Doll</i> by Charlotte Zolotow, illustrated by William Pene Du Bois – age guide 4+</p>	<p>William wants a doll - to hug, to feed, to tuck in, and kiss goodnight. His father buys him trains and a basketball - but not the doll that William really wants. Then one day, someone comes along who understands why William should have his doll.</p>

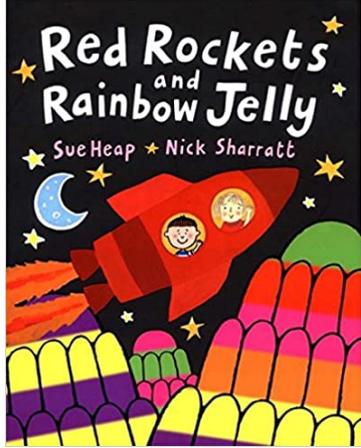
### Girls and boys playing and adventuring together

	<p><i>Romp in the Swamp</i> by Ian Whybrow and illustrated by Adrian Reynolds – age guide 3+ (also available in <i>Harry and the Dinosaurs</i> and the <i>Bucketful of Stories</i>)</p>	<p>Harry has to go and play with 'some girl called Charlie'. They have a brilliant time!</p>
	<p><i>Horace and Morris But Mostly Dolores</i> by James Howe, illustrated by Amy Walrod – age guide 3+</p>	<p>Horace, Morris and Dolores have been best friends forever. They do everything together. But one day Horace and Morris join the Mega-Mice (no girls allowed), and Dolores joins the Cheese Puffs (no boys allowed). Is this the end?</p>

	<p><i>Copy Cat</i> by Mark Birchall – age guide 3+</p>	<p>Dog is fed up with Cat copying everything she does. But when Cat stays away, Dog realises that playing alone is not nearly as much fun. A story about friendship, sharing and play.</p>
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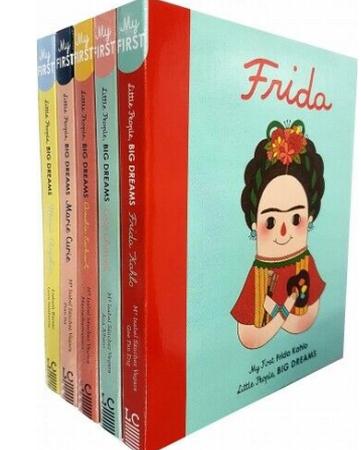
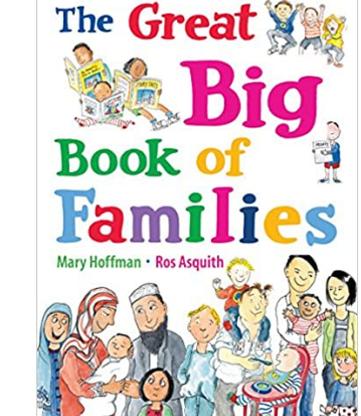
### Be yourself

	<p><i>Julian is a Mermaid</i> by Jessica Love – age guide 3+</p> <p><i>Julian is a Mermaid</i> can also be in ‘Emotions and caring boys’</p>	<p>Julian loves mermaids. One day he sees three women dressed as mermaids and is inspired to transform himself into a mermaid. Nana helps him.</p>
	<p><i>How to be a Lion</i> by Ed Vere – age guide 3+</p>	<p>Leonard is a sensitive lion who likes writing and poetry but some people think he’s not a very good lion.</p> <p><i>How to be a Lion</i> can also be in ‘Emotions and caring boys’</p>
	<p><i>You Choose</i> series by Pippa Goodhart, illustrated by Nick Sharratt – any age, especially younger children</p>	<p>Let your child’s imagination run wild.</p>

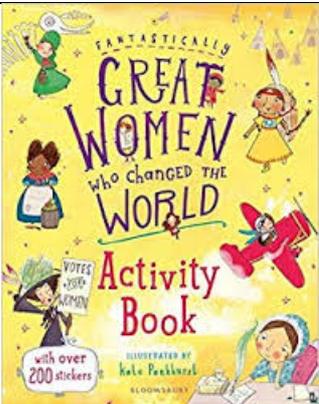
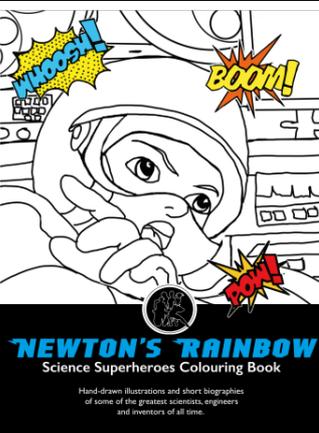
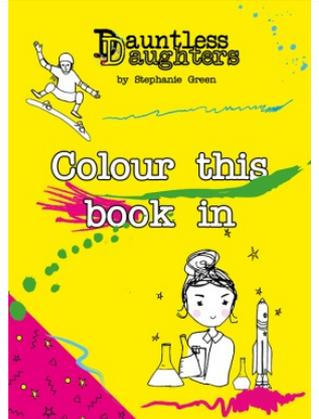
	<p><i>Red Rockets and Rainbow Jelly</i> by Sue Heap and Nick Sharratt</p>	<p>Nick likes red apples, Sue prefers green pears; Nick likes orange hair, but Sue likes purple hair. Despite their differences, Sue likes Nick and Nick likes Sue.</p> <p>A great book about friendship: how boys and girls can be friends, and like different things</p>
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### Non-fiction

Often non-fiction books are dominated by men and their achievements, especially when it comes to biographies of scientists, inventors, sportspeople and historical figures. Books that show the achievements of women, or men in non-traditional roles or reflecting the diversity of modern life, are great to seek out and read with your child.

	<p><i>Little People Big Dreams</i> biography series, by Lisbeth Kaiser, illustrated by Isabel Sanchez Vegara and others – age guide 4+ (set 1 Amelia Earhart, Marie Curie, Maya Angelou, Coco Chanel, Frida Kahlo)</p>	<p>This series of books picks one person per book (mostly women, but some men have now been added) and shows how they were once children with big dreams, and look what they achieved.</p>
	<p><i>The Great Big Book of Families</i> by Mary Hoffman, illustrated by Ros Asquith – age guide 3+</p>	<p>Not all families look the same: there are almost as many kinds of families as colours of the rainbow.</p> <p>This is a great celebration of every type of family – can you find yours there?</p>

## Stereotype-free colouring books and activity books

	<p><i>Fantastically Great Women Who Changed the World Activity Book</i> by Kate Pankhurst – age guide 5+</p>	<p>Hands-on activities focused around great women who changed the world: write your own stories with Jane Austen, design your own pyjamas like Coco Chanel, walk in the footprints of Mary Anning...</p>
	<p><i>Newton's Rainbow – Science Superheroes</i> colouring book from The Remarkablz</p>	<p>Colouring in pages and short biographies of great inventors, engineers and scientists, and the chance to create your own superheroes</p>
	<p><i>Colour this Book in – Dauntless Daughters</i></p>	<p>Images are powerful. Colour in empowering designs of diverse, joyful and female characters.</p>