

## Picture Books on Transitions

(\*denotes series)

### General

*El Cucuy is Scared, Too!* by Donna Barba Higuera

Ramón is a little boy who can't sleep. He is nervous for his first day at a new school. And El Cucuy is the monster who lives in Ramón's cactus pot. He can't sleep, either. It turns out that El Cucuy is scared, too!

*Goodbye Brings Hello* by Anne White

From being pushed on a swing to learning how to pump your legs yourself, from riding a beloved trike to mastering your first bike ride, from leaving the comforts of home behind to venturing forth on that first day of school, milestones are exciting but hard. They mean having to say goodbye to one moment in order to welcome the next.

### Starting School

*The King of Kindergarten* by Derrick Barnes

Starting kindergarten is a big milestone--and the hero of this story is ready to make his mark! He's dressed himself, eaten a pile of pancakes, and can't wait to be part of a whole new kingdom of kids. The day will be jam-packed, but he's up to the challenge, taking new experiences in stride with his infectious enthusiasm! And afterward, he can't wait to tell his proud parents all about his achievements--and then wake up to start another day.

*Becoming Vanessa* by Vanessa Brantley-Newton

On Vanessa's first day of school, her parents tell her it will be easy to make friends. Vanessa isn't so sure. She wears her fanciest outfit so her new classmates will notice her right away. They notice, but the attention isn't what she'd hoped for. The next day, she picks out a plain outfit, and tells her mom that her name is too long. She just wants to blend in, with a simple name like the other girls--why couldn't her parents have named her Megan or Bella? But when her mother tells her the meaning behind her name, it gives her the confidence she needs to introduce her classmates to the real Vanessa.

*Lena's Shoes are Nervous* by Keith Calabrese

Today is a big day! Today, Lena starts kindergarten. She is very excited. But there's just one problem...Lena's shoes are nervous. Lena doesn't want to miss out on her first day of school, but she can't go without her favorite shoes! How can she convince them to be brave?

*Maisy Goes to Preschool* by Lucy Cousins

In a bright, full-size storybook full of familiar scenes, this child-friendly look at a day in the life of a preschooler is one that both newcomers and seasoned pros will be happy to share.

*Dog Days of School* by Kelly DiPucchio

Charlie thinks his dog, Norman, has got it good: he gets to spend his days lounging on the couch or playing fetch, and he never has to do any homework. But when Charlie makes a wish to be a dog instead of a boy, things get a little topsy-turvy!

*Planet Kindergarten* by Sue Ganz-Schmitt

This clever picture book will prepare young explorers to boldly go where they have never gone before: Planet Kindergarten. Suit up for a daring adventure as our hero navigates the unknown reaches and alien inhabitants of this strange new world. Hilarious and confidence-boosting, this exciting story will have new kindergarteners ready for liftoff!

*Sorry Grown-Ups, You Can't Go to School* by Christina Geist

It's just another school morning...until Mom, Dad, Grandma, and even Bow-wow the dog BEG the kids to let them come to school, too! Dad can tie his own shoes--why can't he come? Mom is all ready with her brand-new backpack--she's allowed, right? No! Only kids and teachers!

*We Don't Eat our Classmates* by Ryan T. Higgins

It's the first day of school for Penelope Rex, and she can't wait to meet her classmates. But it's hard to make human friends when they're so darn delicious! That is, until Penelope gets a taste of her own medicine and finds she may not be at the top of the food chain after all. . . .

*Hanna Sparkles: Hooray for the First Day of School!* by Robin Mellom

Hannah Sparkles and her best friend, Sunny Everbright, are ready for first grade. Their day starts as perfect as pom-poms...until Hannah and Sunny are seated far apart in the classroom. Even worse, Hannah is having trouble making new friends. It's going to take some extra thinking for Hannah to learn that sometimes being a good listener is the best way to be a good friend.

*The School Book* by Todd Parr

From morning routines to meeting new people to learning and playing together, explore all the different things that can happen in school, all the while learning a cheerful, child-friendly message of sharing, inclusion and community. Welcome to school-- a place for everyone to grow!

*All Welcome Here* by James Preller

The first day of school and all its excitement, challenges, and yes, anxieties, are celebrated here in connected haiku poems. A diverse cast of characters all start—and finish—their first days of school, and have experiences that all children will relate to.

*School's First Day of School* by Adam Rex

It's the first day of school at Frederick Douglass Elementary and everyone's just a little bit nervous, especially the school itself. What will the children do once they come? Will they like the school? Will they be nice to him? The school has a rough start, but as the day goes on, he soon recovers when he sees that he's not the only one going through first-day jitters.

*The Noisy Classroom* by Angela Shanté

A young girl is about to enter the third grade, but this year she's put into Ms. Johnson's noisy class. Everything about the noisy class is odd. While all the other classes are quiet, Ms. Johnson sings and the kids chatter all day. The door is always closed, yet sounds from it can be heard in the hallway. With summer coming to an end and school starting, the girl realizes that soon she'll be going to the noisy class. What will school be like now?

*Butterflies on the First Day of School* by Annie Silvestro

Rosie can't wait to start kindergarten—she's had her pencils sharpened and her backpack ready for weeks. But suddenly, on the night before the big day, her tummy hurts. Rosie's mom reassures her that it's just butterflies in her belly, and she'll feel better soon. Much to Rosie's surprise, when she says hello to a new friend on the bus, a butterfly flies out of her mouth! As the day goes on, Rosie frees all her butterflies, and even helps another shy student let go of hers, too.

*Brown Bear Starts School* by Sue Tarsky

Brown Bear is nervous. Today is his very first day of school. What if his classmates don't like him? What if he can't hear the teacher? What if he doesn't have the right clothes? His mother does her best to reassure him but it isn't until Brown Bear learns that he can do things for himself that he relaxes and helps his friends, too.

*Kalamata's Kitchen* by Sarah Thomas

Tomorrow is Kalamata's first day at a new school, and she's nervous! What if the kids aren't friendly? Or worse, what if they don't like alligators!? If only Kalamata and Al Dente could go back to the Indian spice market they visited this summer, then maybe she'd remember how to feel brave when new experiences seem scary. Luckily for Kalamata, all the magic required for her journey is right in her own kitchen! As Kalamata and her alligator friend, Al Dente, transport themselves to a magical land filled with tasty ingredients, she realizes being brave is exciting! And most importantly, she learns that when we're nervous about trying new things, food can comfort us and remind us to stay curious, courageous, and compassionate.

*The Night Before Kindergarten* by Natasha Wing

It's the first day of school! Join the kids as they prepare for kindergarten, packing school supplies, posing for pictures, and the hardest part of all--saying goodbye to Mom and Dad. But maybe it won't be so hard once they discover just how much fun kindergarten really is!

### Potty Training

*On Your Potty* by Virginia Miller

George and Bartholomew address the sometimes sensitive issue of toilet training, offering parents a gentle, playful way to approach their toddlers, who will identify with the young bear and cheer for him when he succeeds.

*Potty* by Leslie Patricelli (JBO)

A new toddler title charts a crucial achievement. There comes a point in a toddler's life when going in one's diaper is only one possible option, and the question must be raised: "Should I go in my potty?"

*Potty Patrol* by PAW Patrol (JBO)

Nickelodeon's PAW Patrol is here to help toddlers say, "Bye-bye, diapers!" Filled with encouragement from Marshall, Skye, and the rest of the amazing team, this sturdy board book will guide boys and girls ages 1 to 3--and their parents!--through the adventures of potty training.

*How to Pee: Potty Training for Boys* by Todd Spector

Out with the old and in with the new! Family physician Dr. Todd Spector presents a fresh and outrageously fun way to encourage little boys to give up their diapers. They can try it freestyle (in the backyard!), or give the potty a try with the help of a few props and plenty of imagination. Peeing in the potty is a lot more fun if you do it rocket style, cowboy style, or superhero style!

*How to Pee: Potty Training for Girls* by Todd Spector

Out with the old and in with the new! Family physician Dr. Todd Spector presents a fresh and outrageously fun way to encourage little girls to give up their diapers. They can try it fresh-air style (in the backyard!), or use the potty with the help of a few props and plenty of imagination. Peeing in the potty is a lot more fun if you do it princess style, dance-party style, or gymnast style!

*How to Potty Train Your Porcupine* by Tom Toro

Two children bring home a pet porcupine, but they can only keep her if she's house-trained! After a whirlwind of increasingly zany approaches, the kids learn that sometimes the best way to solve a problem is to ask nicely.

### New Family Members

*The New Small Person* by Lauren Child

Elmore Green starts life as an only child, as many children do. But one day everything changes. When the new small person comes along, it seems that everybody might like it a bit more than they like Elmore Green. And when the small person knocks over Elmore's things and even licks his jelly-bean collection, Elmore's parents say that he can't be angry because the small person is only small. Elmore wants the small person to go back to wherever it came from. Then, one night, everything changes.

*But I Wanted a Baby Brother!* by Kate Feiffer and Diane Goode

Oliver is thrilled that his mother is expecting a baby and convinced that his new sibling will be the brother of his dreams. Imagine his shock and disappointment when a little sister shows up instead! Oliver is determined to do what it takes to find a boy baby—even if that means trading in his sister— but when his hilarious efforts are unsuccessful, he comes to realize that no one can take the place of his family's lovable new addition...even if she's a girl.

*Malaika's Surprise* by Nadia Hohn

It's summertime, and Malaika and Adèle are enjoying playing carnival in their bright costumes, dancing and laughing in the sunshine. But when Mummy announces that they will soon have a new baby brother or sister, Malaika is unsure how to feel about another change in her family.

*Mama's Belly* by Kate Hosford

As a curious little girl awaits the arrival of her baby sister, she asks Mama many questions: "Will she have freckles?" "Will I have to share my blanket?" She helps Mama and Dad prepare to meet her little sister, singing her songs and knitting her a new blanket. But the most important part of getting ready is taking care of Mama. When Mama can't see her toes, she counts to make sure there's still ten. When Mama's tired, she draws her a picture and gives her hugs.

*Nine Months Before a Baby is Born* by Miranda Paul

A soon-to-be big sister and her parents prepare for the arrival of a new baby in the family. Alternating panels depict what the family is experiencing in tandem with how the baby is growing, spanning everything from receiving the news about the new baby to the excitement of its arrival.

*The Brother Book* by Todd Parr

Some brothers are big. Some brothers are little. Some brothers are quiet. Some brothers are a little wild. All brothers are a special part of your family!

*The Sister Book* by Todd Parr

Some sisters are big. Some sisters are little. Some sisters want to be scientists. Some sisters want to be mermaids. All sisters are a special part of your family!

*Splat and the New Baby* by Rob Scotton

Splat the Cat can't wait to be a big brother. So when his mom brings home a special little guest, Splat races from his room, slides down the banister, and skids across the hall, only to find his mom holding . . . a crocodile?! It's not the baby Splat was expecting, but he's determined, no matter how messy, smelly, and tricky it gets, to be the best big brother he can be!

### Losing Family Members

#### *We Dream Medicine Dreams* by Lisa Boivin

When a little girl dreams about a bear, her grandfather explains how we connect with the knowledge of our ancestors through dreams. Bear, Hawk, Caribou, and Wolf all have teachings to share to help us live a good life. But when Grampa gets sick and falls into a coma, the little girl must lean on his teachings as she learns to say goodbye.

#### *Grandad's Island* by Benji Davies

At the bottom of Syd's garden, through the gate and past the tree, is Grandad's house. Syd can let himself in any time he likes. But one day when Syd comes to call, Grandad isn't in any of the usual places. He's in the attic, where he ushers Syd through a door, and the two of them journey to a wild, beautiful island awash in color where Grandad decides he will remain. So Syd hugs Grandad one last time and sets sail for home. Visiting Grandad's house at the bottom of the garden again, he finds it just the same as it's always been -- except that Grandad isn't there anymore.

#### *Dance Like a Leaf* by AJ Irving

As her grandmother's health declines, a young girl begins to lovingly take the lead in their cozy shared autumn traditions.

#### *Hello, Goodbye Window* by Norton Juster

The kitchen window at Nanna and Poppy's house is, for one little girl, a magic gateway. Everything important happens near it, through it, or beyond it. The world for this little girl will soon grow larger and more complex, but never more enchanting or deeply felt.

#### *If You Miss Me* by Jocelyn Li Langrand

Charlie loves to dance her way through life with her grandma. They may not always be together, but each time they part Grandma says, "If you miss me, look at the moon." Then winter brings unexpected change, and not even dancing feels the same. What will Charlie do? Will Grandma come to see her dance again? In the biggest show of the year, Charlie finds her answer.

#### *When Grandfather Flew* by Patricia McLachlan

Milo's grandfather is fascinated by birds. He admires their freedom and never loses an opportunity to point out the things that make each one special. When he

can no longer see as well as he used to, Milo helps him spot and take care of some of his favorites: hovering kestrels, fragile chickadees, and the bald eagle soaring high overhead. One day when Milo comes home, Grandpa isn't there. But when the boy sees an eagle swooping through the sky above, he knows Grandpa is still with them: reborn in the skies, just as he'd wanted.

### *Still Mine* by Jayne Pillemer

Our hands around a cup of hot chocolate, sweet and warm. Our boots splashing in puddles. The song you sing to me when the sun comes up. This is how we say "I love you" every day. But what happens when the person you love is gone? Your heart hurts and you miss them, but even though your eyes can't see them anymore and your arms can't hug them, they are still there, still yours to love . . . just in a different way.

### *One Wave at a Time* by Holly Thompson

After his father dies, Kai experiences all kinds of emotions: sadness, anger, fear, guilt. Sometimes they crash and mix together. Other times, there are no emotions at all—just flatness. As Kai and his family adjust to life without Dad, the waves still roll in. But with the help of friends and one another, they learn to cope—and, eventually, heal.

## Divorce

### *Dinosaurs Divorce: A Guide for Changing Families* by Laurie Krasny Brown (301.42 BRO)

A comprehensive, sensitive guide for changing families to help readers understand what divorce means, why it happens, and how to best cope with everyone's feelings.

### *Weekends with Dad: What to Expect When Your Parents Divorce* by Melissa Higgins (JPN 306.89 HIG)

When your parents divorce, it can feel like the world turns upside down. What do you do? Whether you live mostly at your moms or dads, this story can help you through the tough times.

## Bedtime

### *Let's Get Sleepy!* by Tony Cliff

These cats are on an adventure to find that darn mouse named Sleepy. But Sleepy is a sneaky mouse—he's hard to find. The cats will have to look everywhere: all over town, out by the beach, up in space, and even back in time with the dinosaurs! Can the cats catch that mouse? Even if they don't, at the end of the day, they may just get "sleepy" after all.

### *Llama Llama Red Pajama* by Anna Dewdney\*

Llama, Llama red pajama waiting, waiting for his mama. Mama isn't coming yet. Baby Llama starts to fret. In this infectious rhyming read-aloud, Baby Llama turns bedtime into an all-out llama drama! Tucked into bed by his mama, Baby Llama immediately starts worrying when she goes downstairs, and his soft whimpers turn to hollers when she doesn't come right back. But just in time, Mama returns to set things right.

*The Yawns are Coming* by Christopher Elipoulos

Two best friends have big plans for their sleepover. They aren't going to go to bed at all--they'll stay up playing all night long. But then it happens: The YAWNS show up! And as much as they try to outrun and hide from them, it's no use: The Yawns catch them. Maybe they could keep going anyway, but then a DOZE arrives . . . followed by the dreaded SNORES. Will our heroes escape the SLEEPIES?

*The Nice Dream Truck* by Beth Ferry

Sample your choice of sweet dreams—from astronaut to making-the-shot and more—all served by a truck that flies on moonbeams. You may choose to swim; you may want to fly, there's an endless assortment of flavors to try!

*Good Night, Sleep Tight* by Mem Fox

Bonnie and Ben enjoy the stories so much that they don't want to go to sleep; they want to hear each one again! Instead the babysitter tells them new nursery rhymes until, finally, all three of them fall fast asleep.

*Snoozapalooza* by Kimberlee Gard

Count to ten with these cuddly forest creatures as they settle down and hibernate for the winter. Friends of all sizes, from bear to mouse, snuggle together in one furry heap to endure the snowy season.

*Bedtime for Sweet Creatures* by Nikki Grimes

Mommy needs to wrangle her sweet creature in bed so that the whole family can sleep. From tigers to squirrels to snakes, the little boy dodges around his bedtime, until he is tired enough to finally sleep. His imaginative animal friends weave their way through the illustrations, eventually joining him in curling up for the night.

*Off to See the Sea* by Nikki Grimes

Night has fallen and Mom and Dad need to get their little one in the tub. To make it more fun, Mom brings a magical adventure out at sea to life, where the faucet is a waterfall, a rubber ducky is a sea creature, and the splashing water is a raging sea! In their ocean journey, Mom and Dad manage to get their little one clean just in time to dock for bedtime.

*Goodnight, Sleepyville* by Blake Liliane Hellman



In Sleepyville, the sun is setting, and animal families are heading home for the night. After milk and cookies, everyone has fun brushing their teeth and picking out their favorite pajamas--stripes, plaid, or polka-dots? Then, under twinkling stars, it's time to wiggle into their cozy beds for lullabies and bedtime stories.

*Ocean Lullaby* by Laura McGee Kvasnosky

The sun is setting. The waves are gently lapping at the shore. It's time for all the ocean creatures to rest. Whales, turtles, dolphins, and more drift and doze. And as the tide pools catch the light of the moon and the stars glowing above, a mother and her baby listen to the soft sounds of the ocean lullaby.

*Sleep Train* by Jonathan London

A little boy climbs into bed with a book and starts counting the train cars in it, between the engine and caboose. "Ten sleepy cars going clickety-clack," reads the refrain. But as the boy counts cars and gets sleepier and sleepier, his room looks more and more like one of the train cars from his book--the sleeping car, of course!

*Snuggle Down Deep* by Diane Ohanesian

As winter arrives and fluffy snowflakes begin to fall, animal families gather together to snuggle down deep against the cold. They prepare and cozy up their dens, nests, and underground tunnels. Then they curl up nose to nose, cheek to cheek, snuggle down deep, and sleep.

*It's Not a Bed, It's a Time Machine* by Mickey Rapkin

Bedtime means lights out, with dark corners and spooky sounds. But it also means . . . adventure! Because it's not a bed, it's a time machine. Our hero rides it to the coolest time of all—the age of the dinosaurs. He makes a tyrannosaurus-sized friend, who helps him become the Boss of Bedtime. While tonight's sleep will span millions of years, it'll feel like it's over in the blink of an eye.

*How to Put an Octopus to Bed* by Sherri Duskey Rinker

It's time for bed and this little octopus is more than happy to volunteer! He's all ready to put his parents to bed! Bath time, putting on pajamas, brushing teeth, and tucking everyone in is a whole new challenge when the kid is in charge (and especially when everyone has eight arms!).

*Steam Train, Dream Train* by Sherri Duskey Rinker

The dream train pulls into the station, and one by one the train cars are loaded: polar bears pack the reefer car with ice cream, elephants fill the tanker cars with paints, tortoises stock the auto rack with race cars, bouncy kangaroos stuff the

hopper car with balls. Sweet and silly dreams are guaranteed for any budding train enthusiasts!

*The Goodnight Train* by June Sobel

All aboard for Dreamland! Hold on to your pillow because the Goodnight Train is taking off. Roll that corner, rock that curve, and soar past mermaids, leaping sheep, and even ice-cream clouds. You won't want to miss a thing, so whatever you do, don't . . . close . . . your . . . eyes!

*Dino Pajama Party* by Laurie Wallmark

Much like us, dinosaurs love to have fun. Dinosaurs from all around gather together to play instruments, dance, and sing before bedtime. But soon the dinosaurs grow tired and need their rest. This is a book that's sure to have kids following the dinos' lead as they get ready to go to sleep.

*The Napping House* by Audrey Wood

A cozy bed, a snoring granny, a dreaming child, a dozing dog, a snoozing--WAIT! There's a surprise in store, and little ones will want to discover it over and over again. So pull on your sleeping cap and snuggle in for a timeless cumulative tale that's truly like no other.

Moving

*Evelyn Del Rey is Moving Away* by Meg Medina

Evelyn Del Rey is Daniela's best friend. They do everything together and even live in twin apartments across the street from each other: Daniela with her mami and hamster, and Evelyn with her mami, papi, and cat. But not after today--not after Evelyn moves away. Until then, the girls play amid the moving boxes until it's time to say goodbye, making promises to keep in touch, because they know that their friendship will always be special.

*The Blue House* by Phoebe Wahl

For as long as he can remember, Leo has lived in the blue house with his dad, but lately the neighborhood is changing. When Leo and his dad are forced to leave, they aren't happy about it. They howl and rage and dance out their feelings. When the time comes, they leave the blue house behind--there was never any choice, not really--but little by little, they find a way to keep its memory alive in their new home.