

## Reading with Dad Book List

### *For younger children*

**Baby Dance** (1999) by Ann Taylor

A board book in which an African-American father croons to his baby daughter and dances while holding her.

**Because Your Daddy Loves You** (2005) by Andrew Clements

When things go wrong during a day at the beach, a father could do a lot of things but always picks the loving one.

**Daddies Are For Catching Fireflies** (1999) by Harriet Ziefert

A lift-the-flap book that shows all the special things daddies can do.

**Daddy is a Doodlebug** (2000) by Bruce Degen

Written with inventive rhyme, a father bug and his child savor the special joys of companionship.

**Daddy Makes the Best Spaghetti** (1986) by Anna Grossnickle Hines

A board book featuring a family with a stay-at-home dad.

**The Daddy Mountain** (2004) by Jules Feiffer

A little girl's step-by-step account of climbing all the way up on top of her daddy's head.

**Dad's Dinosaur Day** (1993) by Diane Dawson Heard

A dad's behavior changes when he becomes a dinosaur for a day.

**Kevin and His Dad** (1999) by Irene Smalls

With Mom away on a Saturday, a father and son spend the whole day together doing household chores and then some fun activities.

**Let's Play Rough** (2000) by Lynne Jonell

A young boy wants to play rough - but not too rough – with his father.

**Lots of Dads** (1997) by Shelley Rotner & Sheila M. Kelly

Bright, joyful photos and a simple text show how dads are different and special.

**My Dad** (1991) by Debbie Bailey

A board book with photos of a variety of dads and children in everyday settings.

**My Dad** (2000) by Anthony Browne

A child exaggerates the many wonderful things about his dad.

**My Daddy is a Giant** (2004) by Carl Norac

A young child loves and admires his father – a true giant among men.

**Night Shift Daddy** (2000) by Eileen Spinelli

A father who works the night shift has a special bond with his daughter.

**Octopus Hug** (1993) by Laurence Pringle

A burly father leads his children into some active games and imaginative play.

**On a Wintry Morning** (2000) by Dori Chaconas

A graceful poem of a father and baby bundling up for an early morning outing.

**Papa, Do You Love Me?** (2005) by Barbara M. Joosse

When a Masai father in Africa answers his son's questions, the boy learns that his father's love for him is unconditional.

**Pete's A Pizza** (1998) by William Steig

A dad brightens up a rainy day with a fun game of making his son into a pizza.

**Piggy and Dad Go Fishing** (2005) by David Martin

When his dad takes Piggy fishing for the first time and Piggy ends up feeling sorry for the worms and the fish, they decide to make some changes.

**Rainy Day** (2000) by Emma Haughton

Shortly after his parents have separated, a son spends a rainy day with his father.

\* **A Special Kind of Love** (1995) by Stephen Michael King

A father builds wonderful things out of boxes for his son as his special way of saying "I love you."

**Two Homes** (2001) by Claire Masurel

A young boy enjoys the homes of both his parents who live apart but love him very much.

**The Very Best Daddy of All** (2004) by Marion Dane Bauer (Minnesota Author)

Pictures and rhyming text show how animal, bird, and human fathers take care of their children.

**Vroomaloom Zoom** (2000) by John Coy (Minnesota Author)

A father takes his daughter on an imaginary car ride, lulling her to sleep with various sounds.

**What Dads Can't Do** (2000) by Douglas Wood (Minnesota Author)

A humorous account of how dads show love by explaining all the things they cannot do.

*For older children*

**Animal Dads** (1997) by Sneed B. Collard III

Within the natural world, animal fathers have specific roles.

**Carlos and the Cornfield/Carlos y la milpa de maiz** (1995) by Jan Romero Stevens

In this English/Spanish bilingual story, a boy learns the meaning of his father's statement, "You reap what you sow."

**Dad and Me in the Morning** (1994) by Patricia Lakin

A young deaf boy spends a glorious morning sharing the beauty of a sunrise with his father.

**Dad, Jackie, and Me** (2005) by Myron Uhlberg

A boy learns the connection between his deaf father and the first black baseball player in the Major Leagues.

**\* Daddy, Could I Have an Elephant?** (1996) by Jake Wolf

A father and son discuss the boy's exotic ideas about getting a pet.

**Daddy Played Music for the Cows** (1995) by Maryann Weidt (Minnesota Author)

A daughter's memories of her father and growing up on a farm.

**Daddy Poems** (2000) selected by John Micklos, Jr.

A collection of short poems honoring fatherhood.

**Daddy's Roommate** (1990) by Michael Willhoite

A child with divorced parents lives with his gay father and his partner.

**Faraway Home** (2000) by Jane Kurtz

A little girl in America worries as her father prepares for a trip to visit his ill mother in Ethiopia.

**Fly Away Home** (1991) by Eve Bunting

A father and son are homeless and living at the airport.

**How Many Stars in the Sky?** (1991) by Lenny Hort

When a father and son can't sleep, they take a long drive to the country to count the stars.

**Just the Two of Us** (2001) by Will Smith

A popular song adds to the story of a father's love as his child grows from a boy into a man.

**Lewis & Papa** (1998) by Barbara Joosse

While accompanying his father on the wagon train along the Santa Fe Trail, a young boy discovers what it means to be a man.

**Loon Summer** (2001) by Barbara Santucci

A girl and her father spend their first summer at the lake without the girl's mother.

**My Father's Boat** (1998) by Sherry Garland

A Vietnamese immigrant tells his son how he learned to fish from his father.

**Night Driving** (1996) by John Coy (Minnesota Author)

A father and son drive into the night and watch for night animals, swap baseball stories, and keep a lookout for eighteen wheelers.

**Owl Moon** (1987) by Jane Yolen

On a winter's night under a full moon, a father and daughter trek into the woods to go owling.

**Papa's Latkes** (2004) by Michelle Edwards (Minnesota Author)

A father and his two daughters try to make latkes and celebrate on the first Hanukkah after the girls' mother died.

\* **Papa's Stories** (1994) by Dolores Johnson

A little girl enjoys her father reading stories to her, but then discovers he's telling stories because he can't read.

**Sammy Wakes His Dad** (2002) by Chip Emmons

A father, who uses a wheelchair, is reluctant to go fishing with his son until his son's love finally moves him to action.

**The Summer My Father Was Ten** (1998) by Pat Brisson

A father tells his son the story of how he damaged a neighbor's tomato garden when he was a boy and what he did to make amends.

**Tell Me One Thing, Dad** (2004) by Tom Pow

A little girl and her dad have a going-to-bed routine that shows how much they love each other.

**Tell Me What We Did Today** (2003) by Rick Kupchella (Minnesota Author)

A father and daughter share special time reviewing the real and made-up things that happened during their day.

**Two Old Potatoes and Me** (2003) by John Coy (Minnesota Author)

After a girl finds two old potatoes at her father's house, they plant and tend them to see if they will grow new potatoes.

**Visiting Day** (2002) by Jacqueline Woodson

A young girl and her grandmother visit the girl's father in prison.

**The Wall** (1990) by Eve Bunting

A little boy and his father visit the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, DC to find the name of the boy's grandfather.

**When Dad's at Sea** (2004) by Mindy L. Pelton

A soldier's daughter worries about her dad on his mission far away from home.

**About this list**

The Minnesota Humanities Center's Reading with Dad book list includes quality children's picture books featuring fathers. The list was originally developed in 2001 by the Minnesota Humanities Center, involving a group of local children's literature specialists, and has been revised several times, most recently in January 2007. Most of these books are readily available through bookstores and libraries; those marked with an asterisk (\*) may be difficult to find in bookstores but can often be located through local libraries.