



# The Bookworm

From your  
local library  
and Idaho's Read  
to Me program

## Tickle Your Funny Bone with Funny Books

Kids love things that are funny — jokes, silly words, funny faces, etc. Research shows children laugh about 200 times a day. The benefits to laughing include better health, stress relief, increased intelligence, and stronger social skills. (Kidshealth.org)

A sense of humor is being able to understand and appreciate funny things. It is a skill that needs to be taught and practiced with young children. Reading books that have a funny storyline, silly words, or humorous pictures is one way to develop this skill.

It is important that parents model appropriate humor for their children. They need to be taught that it is not okay to laugh at people because they are different, or in a way that would be hurtful to them. Children think that bodily functions like burping are funny. They need to be taught that there are limits to "bathroom humor."

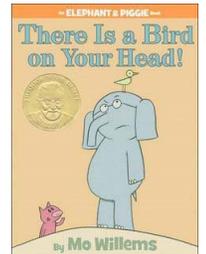
Laughing is important to emotional and physical health, so snuggle up with a funny book and have a good laugh!



## Featured Book

### *There Is a Bird on Your Head!* by Mo Willems

Gerald learns that there are worse things than having a bird on your head; two love birds, a nest, and three baby birds can cause a much bigger problem!



This book in the "Elephant and Piggie" series received the Theodore Seuss Geisel Award in 2009. Mo Willems is the author of several popular series:

#### Pigeon



#### Cat the Cat



#### Knuffle Bunny



## Choosing Quality Books: American Library Association Awards

Though there are many picture books that are considered high-quality for children, choosing award-winning books, such as Caldecott Medal books or Geisel Award books, is a good way to begin introducing your child to the best children's literature.

The Theodore Seuss Geisel Award (Dr. Seuss) is presented each year to the best American book in English for beginning readers.

The Caldecott Medal is awarded each year to the artist of the best-illustrated American picture book for children.

Look for these gold or silver medals at your local library.



## More fun with *There Is a Bird on Your Head!*

**In the mood...** This is a great book to help your child identify moods and feelings. Ask your child to hunt through the book for examples of: happy, mad, scared, confused, frustrated, etc.

**Tech time...** Play Elephant and Piggie games, print coloring sheets, and meet more Mo Willems characters at [pigeonpresents.com/](http://pigeonpresents.com/).

**Arts and crafts...** Elephant and Piggie are best friends. Provide paper and crayons and ask your child to draw a picture of him playing with his best friend. Ask him questions about his drawing.

**Nonsense words...** Help your child create nonsense words. They can draw a picture of anything and rename it something silly. For example, calling a picture of the family dog a zoompa instead. Dr. Seuss books are good models for creating nonsense words.

### Picture books that help develop a sense of humor:

- *I Ain't Gonna Paint No More*, by Karen Beaumont
- *Cookie's Week*, by Cindy Ward
- *There Was an Old Lady Who Swallowed Some Leaves*, by Lucille Colandro (there is a series of Old Lady books)
- *Skippyjon Jones*, by Judy Schachner
- *I Wanna New Room*, by Karen Kaufman Orloff



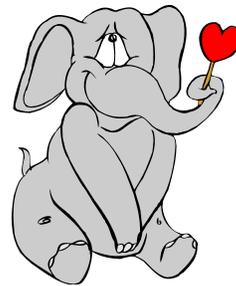
## Song to sing with your child... Willoughby Wallaby Woo

Willoughby wallaby woo,  
An elephant sat on you!

Willoughby wallaby wee,  
An elephant sat on me!

Willoughby wallaby Waiden,  
An elephant sat on Aiden!

*Change the names to include all the children singing*

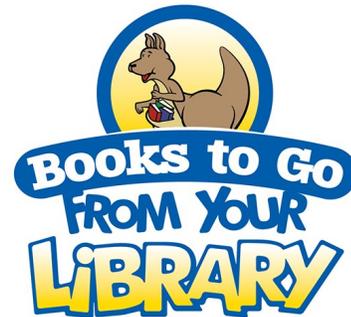


Willoughby wallaby woo,  
An elephant sat on you!

Willoughby wallaby wee,  
An elephant sat on me!

### What your library can do for you...

Don't have a library card? You can still visit your library for storytimes or to read with your child. Or you can ask your librarian about how to apply for your own card today!



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