



Early Reader
Level 1

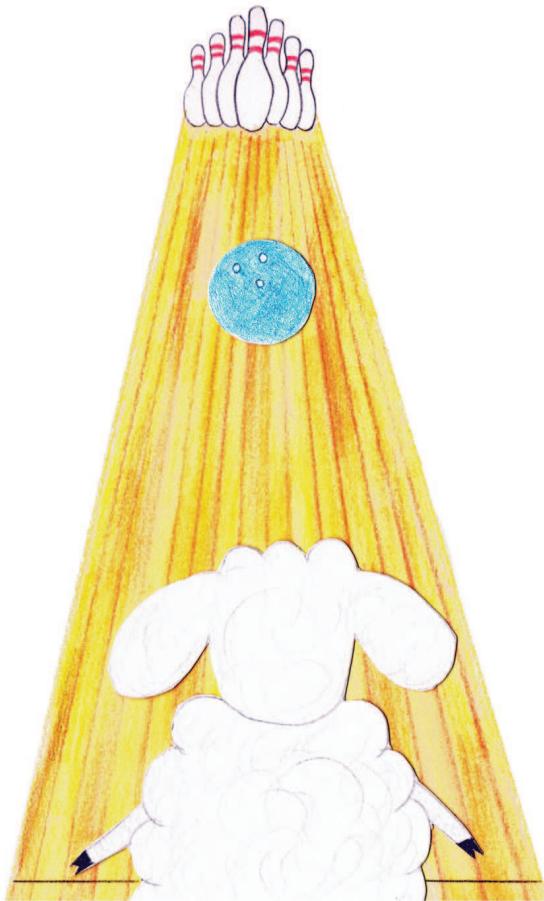
Learning to Read is a Ball

by Kimberly Scanlon, M.A., CCC-SLP
Author of "My Toddler Talks"



A unique resource
that prepares your child
for reading by applying
the latest evidence-
based techniques.

Welcome!



Do you want to grow your child into a curious, passionate, and lifelong reader? Do you want your child to learn how to strengthen some prerequisite skills needed for learning to read? Then this book is for you!

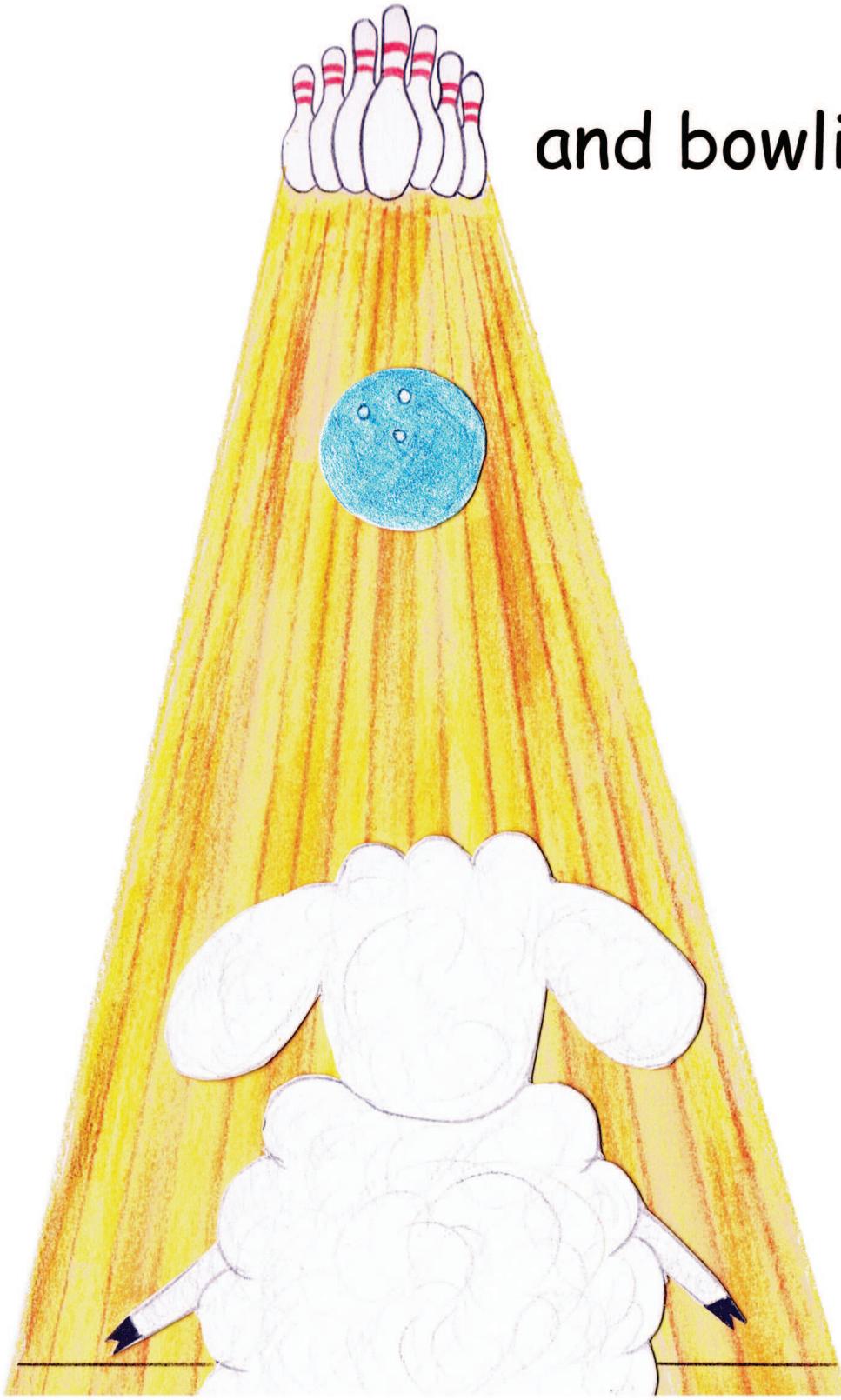
Learning to Read is a Ball is intended to train you, so you can help your preschooler enhance his or her reading skills.

Hold on! Before we get the ball rolling...

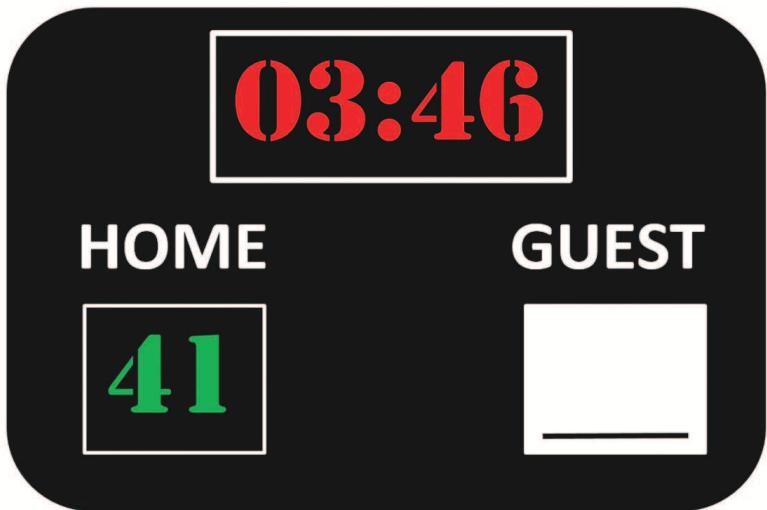
I know you are eager to start reading *Learning to Read is a Ball* since it's such a fun book! Before you begin please skip to the Parent Guide on page 30 to review some simple and effective ways to help your child learn to read.

Basketballs **bounce** . . .





and bowling balls *roll*.



If you're careful when shooting,



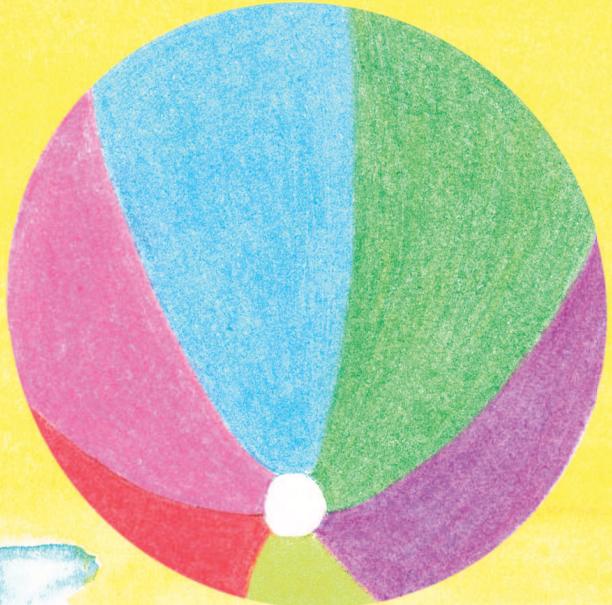
you may score a goal!





All balls are *curvy*,
and most balls are *roundy*.

Balls can go bouncing
all over the ground.





Parent Guide

Learning to Read is a Ball is a two part book. The first section is a fun and interactive picture book. It offers multiple opportunities to enhance key foundational skills needed for reading: oral language, phonological awareness and print awareness.

This section is a parent guide summarizing and explaining these foundational skills. It will show you how to use the picture book to facilitate the development of these important literacy skills in your child.

Learning to Read is a Ball is intended for the emergent reader, but it can also be used with toddlers or with children who have language delays. If you suspect a language delay or have concerns, consult a certified and licensed speech language pathologist. If your child is language delayed and between the ages of 18 and 36 months then my first book, *My Toddler Talks: Strategies and Activities to Promote Language Development* may also be helpful.

Kimberly Scanlon

How to Hit it Out of the Ballpark with this Book

1. Read this Parent Guide FIRST. This section is divided into three “Action Guides.” They will acquaint you with three foundational skills which are essential in learning to read:

- A. Oral Language — the ability to effectively use spoken words to communicate thoughts and ideas.
- B. Phonological Awareness — the understanding that words are made up of distinct spoken sounds.
- C. Print Awareness — the recognition of print (letters, words, and symbols) and the understanding that it carries meaning.

2. Read the Picture Book to Yourself. Read it a few times to become familiar with the words, characters, and scenes.

3. Focus on One Skill at a Time. (e.g. Oral Language)

These three skills are distinct in nature. Learning and mastering one skill will not necessarily promote development in the other two. Research suggests targeted instruction in all three areas is essential to the achievement of successful reading. After you have decided which skill to focus on first, you’re ready to introduce your child to *Learning to Read is a Ball!*

4. Go on a Picture Walk. Talk about the book before reading it to your child. Picture walks stimulate curiosity. Talk about the title and cover. Turn a few pages, and ask open-ended questions to encourage independent thought about the pictures (e.g. “What do you think is happening here?” “What do you think this book is about?”). *Do not read a single word on a page.* Enticing picture walks pull your child in so he’ll want to read the book. Have him guess about the story based on the images and not the words. To see a video of me demonstrating a picture walk please visit www.scanlonspeech.com.

Reader Bonus! Pages in *Learning to Read is a Ball* can be photocopied or scanned for individual use. Your child can draw, write, create, and re-create as often as she likes. Feel free to share your child’s work on my Facebook or Google Plus page. Please do not make copies or distribute for commercial purposes.

Please know while these action guides are tailored to *Learning to Read is a Ball*, the techniques and suggestions can be applied to any book you read with your child. Also, masculine and feminine pronouns have been alternated to be inclusive.

5. Read *Learning to Read is a Ball* to Your Child. Use a “lap method” when reading with your little one. Have your child sit on your lap, snuggle in close, and share the read aloud experience in a collaborative, loving, and informal manner. Encourage your child to write or draw in the book, as there are several opportunities to do so (if you’re reading the electronic version or prefer not to mark up the book, then the relevant pages can be downloaded for free at www.scanlonspeech.com). Drawing and writing are skills that go hand-in-hand with reading. If your child is a reluctant reader, this interactive take on “reading” will reduce pressure and make it an enjoyable experience.

6. Re-read the Picture Book. With each re-read, target something new or teach your child mastery of a particular concept (e.g. vocabulary, rhyme, print awareness, etc.). Studies¹ have shown children learn new words and concepts faster when the same books are repeatedly read to them.

7. Visit www.scanlonspeech.com. Subscribe to my newsletter to download FREE worksheets and instructional videos that complement *Learning to Read is a Ball*.

“Children are made readers on
the laps of their parents.”

— Emilie Buchwald, author of *Floramel and Esteban*

¹ Levy, A. (2013, March 3). Why children learn faster with only a few books: Repeatedly reading the same book to toddlers helps them learn new words. Retrieved from <http://www.dailymail.co.uk>



3. Provide Synonyms and Antonyms

Vocabulary size is extremely important in developing reading skills. *Learning to Read is a Ball* is deliberately written using basic vocabulary. The words may already be familiar to your child and if they're not, the illustrations depict the meaning of the words. It is easier for a child to learn a new word when a parent introduces it as a synonym (a word with similar meaning) to a word she already knows. For instance, your child may know the word "yummy", but not "scrumptious." Since she has a concept of yummy, it is more likely she will understand scrumptious. In addition to synonyms, you can have fun with antonyms (opposites) to convey what the new word means.

The chart below offers a sample list of synonyms and antonyms for some vocabulary in *Learning to Read is a Ball*. After your child becomes familiar with the language in this book, strategically and playfully "throw in" (no pun intended!) these new "challenge" words when reading. For example, "Wow. That ball is gigantic!" or "I hope these meatballs aren't bland!"

BIG	SMALL	FUZZY	SHOUT	YUMMY
<u>Synonyms</u>	<u>Synonyms</u>	<u>Synonyms</u>	<u>Synonyms</u>	<u>Synonyms</u>
huge enormous gigantic jumbo	mini bitty ("itty bitty") teeny ("teeny tiny") petite	furry hairy wooly frizzy	cheer scream yell shriek	tasty delicious scrumptious delectable
<hr/>				
<u>Antonyms</u>	<u>Antonyms</u>	<u>Antonyms</u>	<u>Antonyms</u>	<u>Antonyms</u>
small tiny	big humungous	smooth velvety	whisper mutter	bland tasteless



Early Reader
Level 1

Jump Start Your Child's Early Reading Skills While Having a Ball!

This is not another beginning reader book. **LEARNING TO READ IS A BALL** is the starting point for parents who want to prepare their preschoolers to be lifelong, successful, and passionate readers. This one-of-a-kind resource introduces the latest evidence-based early literacy research as a concise and easy-to-understand parent guide. Then, the ball is in your court! Apply the techniques by reading the fun-loving picture book with your child.

LEARNING TO READ IS A BALL includes:

- A rhyming 28-page picture book about balls
- Specific techniques to develop oral language using different reading styles
- Strategies to use synonyms and antonyms to build vocabulary
- Various approaches to encourage storytelling
- Dynamic tips to play with rhymes and alliteration to build the understanding that words are made up of different sounds
- Thoughtful tactics to highlight letters and words to stimulate print awareness

Develop these foundational reading skills in your child, and you'll take pride knowing you helped prepare your little one for formal reading instruction going into pre-school or kindergarten.



Kimberly Scanlon is a certified and licensed pediatric speech language pathologist and author of the top-selling speech therapy book, *My Toddler Talks*. Kimberly's practice is founded upon empowering parents to help their children achieve communication and literacy success while having fun. She lives in New Jersey with her family. To learn more about Kimberly's work please visit www.scanlonspeech.com and www.mytoddertalks.com.