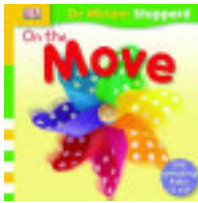
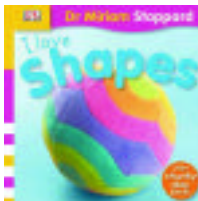


Non-Fiction



On the Move

ISBN: 1 4053 1377 3



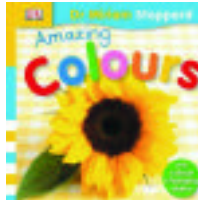
I Love Shapes

ISBN: 1 4053 1375 7



My Busy Day

ISBN: 1 4053 1378 1



Amazing Colours

ISBN: 1 4053 1376 5
Dr Miriam Stoppard
Dorling Kindersley £4.99

Four delightful books at a very reasonable price. They are spirally bound with strong covers and laminated pages so little chocolate-y or jammy fingerprints can be easily wiped off. *On the Move* has tabs to pull to make Jack jump, the plane fly and the monkey swing. *Shapes* has a set of foam play pieces to remove and replace and to match with the pictures. *My Busy Day* contains pop-out

pieces with pictures of the day's activities and a chart to put them on. *Amazing Colours* has colour changing slides and a colour wheel. All are beautifully produced with brightly coloured pictures of lively toddlers and familiar creatures and objects. Dr Stoppard has provided interesting ideas for home-based activities and talking points for use with each book. I am not quite so happy with her developmental notes as I know from experience that these can be worrying if taken too seriously. I can imagine a child and adult having a lot of fun with these books.

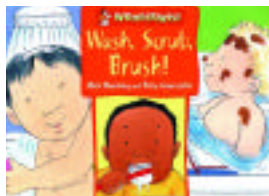
(6 months-3)

Pat Jenkins

Wash, Scrub, Brush

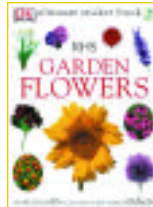
Mick Manning & Brita Granstrom
Franklyn Watts £5.99 ISBN: 0 7496 6225 5

We are going to a party so we must be clean and tidy. If we have straggly, nitty hair, germ-laden fingers, sticky teeth or smelly feet we certainly won't be acceptable guests. Personal hygiene, human and animal is the subject of this entertaining book. We brush our hair and the bird preens its feathers. The colourful pictures are frank and funny and the text extremely straight from the shoulder. We are told in no uncertain terms why we should bother to



brush our hair, clean our teeth or wash our hands. Only the sloth, it seems, has a good excuse for being dirty.

Pat Jenkins



Garden Flowers

ISBN: 1 4053 1480 X



Garden Pond

ISBN: 1 4053 1481 8



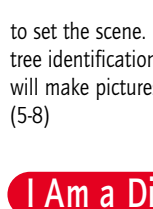
Garden Bugs

ISBN: 1 4053 1478 8



Trees and Leaves

ISBN: 1 4053 1479 6
Royal Horticultural Society
Dorling Kindersley £3.99



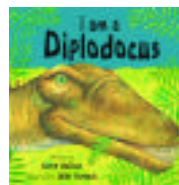
I Am a Diplodocus

ISBN: 0 340 89391 5

I Am a Quetzalcoatlus

ISBN: 0 340 89390 7
Written by Karen Wallace
Illustrated by Mike Bostock
Hodder £5.99

Two books on the ever-interesting topic of dinosaurs. A young diplodocus is looking for her dinner in the swampy forest when she makes the mistake of wandering away from the herd. A hungry allosaurus spots her and attacks. Will the herd hear her cries and get to her in time? No happy ending in the second book for the mother quetzalcoatlus and her eggs, I'm afraid. Her mate

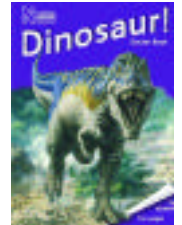


returns to the nest after a feeding expedition too late to protect her from the marauding dromacosaur. Text and pictures complement each other perfectly in these two stunningly illustrated books. They are violent but no doubt true to life at the time.

Pat Jenkins

Dinosaur!

Natural History Museum
£3.99
ISBN: 0 565 09194 8

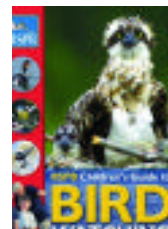


More dinosaurs, this time in a sticker book and a very nice one too. There is a double page landscape on which to arrange a world of sticky dinosaurs. They can be removed and rearranged easily. There are dinosaur skeletons to match with their outlines, with a sentence of information about each. There is a maze, a dot-to-dot picture and a 'spot the difference' puzzle. There is also space to design your own dinosaur and give it a name. It was said to be "wicked" by my seven-year-old grandson, this being the highest praise possible.

Pat Jenkins

RSPB Children's Guide to Bird Watching

David Chandler and Mike Unwin
A & C Black £ 9.99 ISBN: 0 7136 7157 2



From the eye catching photograph on the cover, to the species checklist at the back of the book, this RSPB Children's Guide is a wonderful introduction and helpful manual. There is an excellently designed field guide to the 130 species of birds to be found in Britain but this handbook also provides much more. It helps to choose essential equipment and clothing. It details localities where special birds may be seen, and includes a birding diary and a school holiday diary so that, being forewarned, you can plan visits to reserves or particular habitats at different times of the year with confidence. The art of note taking is shown to be important and the role of the bird watcher as protector, provider and conservationist is encouraged. A brilliant, pocket sized guide that is packed with wonderful photos, text and ideas. Highly recommended.

Anne Munro

Let's Eat! Children and their food around the world

Beatrice Hollyer
Frances Lincoln £ 6.99 ISBN: 1 84507 329 0
The subject of food seems to inspire a universal fascination. By using this as a main theme, the lives and environments and cultures of five children are examined and compared. The s



stimulating photographs and text transport the reader easily to different continents. It shows that however different the local foods or living standards may be, the enjoyment of choosing, preparing, cooking and eating meals with other family members and friends is the same all over the world. The children represent France, Mexico, South Africa, Thailand and India. As each country has six pages there is still enough information to both entertain and inform young readers. Individual likes and dislikes are also represented and there is a recipe from each country to try out for oneself. A lovely book to share, especially as all royalties go to Oxfam.

(7+) *Anne Munro*

Spud Goes Green



Giles Thaxton
Nigel Baines
Egmont £ 4.99
ISBN: 1 4052 1731 6

Although this book seems to be produced in a jokey and cartoon-like fashion, it has many serious points to make about conservation. The book is a year's diary in the life of Spud - a boy who, with the help of his friend, Adi, tries to become more eco-conscious. There are humorous drawings by Nigel Baines, and as the year goes by there are many fun and practical activities to try out. Whether or not you wish to wash your clothes by 'treading' them in your bath water, make your own compost or paper, dye your T-shirt with natural products or simply turn off lights around the house to be more eco-aware, it is up to one's personal choice. There is advice about buying fair trade products and world conservation facts to mull over. An original funky approach to a serious subject which should engage younger readers and make them smile.

(7+) *Anne Munro*



Solo Sailing

Esther Ripley
Dorling Kindersley *D K Readers*
£ 3.99 ISBN: 1 4053 0388 3

A highly recommended series of books which really deliver a quality product, aiming to encourage readers of all levels to "learn to read and read to

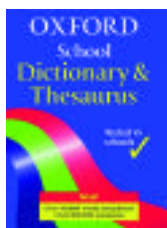
learn". The books are vibrant, relevant and stimulating. *Solo Sailing*, written for proficient readers, is packed with stunning photographs and transports one effortlessly on a variety of solo maritime journeys from the 1800s to the present day. The courage, determination and skills of these mariners is in no doubt, and these heroic stories convey the danger and fortitude required to navigate the world's great oceans. Additional information relating to the main text is cleverly featured in both an alphabetical glossary and by providing extra relevant facts, featured in side columns, on each page. A captivating read,

conveying history without tears, and proving that there are always people willing to challenge themselves against one of nature's toughest hazards.

(7+) *Anne Munro*

Oxford School Dictionary and Thesaurus

Robert Allen
Oxford £7.99 ISBN: 0 19 911232 0



A compact book that successfully combines a thesaurus and dictionary. As a multitasking aide memoire it works very well. The main words and head words are blue which immediately gives the student a focus. As both dictionary and thesaurus

references are on the same page no time is lost searching for comparative information and the reader is also given synonyms, antonyms, relevant grammatical detail and idiomatic phrases and expressions. Although there is no thumb indented alphabetical aid, a letter highlighted, coloured alphabet is printed on each page, helping to access the correct letter quickly. An excellent well priced book for either the school or the home student.

(8+) *Anne Munro*

Toys and Tales with Everyday Materials

Sudarsham Khanna, Gita Wolf and Anushka Ravishankar
Tara Publishing £10.99
ISBN: 81 86211 42 X



This Indian book is addressed to adults and children. It came out of a children's workshop on folk toymaking. There are 25 simple toys made out of common (even waste) materials. You find out what you need, how to make them and what you can do with them. There are also notes on the scientific principles they illustrate. There's fun in the making and fun in the plaything. That's double the value of a shop bought toy - which is the authors' message.

(8+ and adults) *Pat Thomson*

King Henry VIII: the exploding king

Emma Craigie ISBN: 1 904977 57 X

Nancy Wake: WW2 secret agent "The White Mouse"

Lucy Hannah ISBN: 1 904977 58 8
Short Books *Who Was ...* £4.99

Two books about two big personalities. Henry VIII seems to have exploded pretty regularly and not only, as rumour had it, after his death. It is an instructive picture of life with an absolute

monarch. The Queens are dealt with, of course, but there is also a good detailed account of daily life at Court and his relationship with the Church.



Nancy Wake proves as uncrushable as Henry. A lively girl from downtown Sydney, she came to Europe and married a rich French playboy. She was ideally placed to be recruited as a British agent. We find out about the life of an agent, the work of the resistance and the state of occupied France. Nancy's indomitable spirit comes through and is some explanation of how she faced the dangers and survived.



(10+) *Pat Thomson*

Stressed Out: the truth

Aidan Macfarlane & Ann McPherson
Oxford *Teenage Healthfreak* £4.99
ISBN: 0 19 911311 4



The kind of stress discussed here is the everyday pressure that gradually destroys hope and happiness as well as that caused by life changing events. These are real queries emailed to the teenagehealthfreak.org website and answered with a mixture of sympathetic good

sense and professional insight, whether the problems concern exams, appearance, relationships or drink and drugs. It is an instructive read for adults, too, as very young people ask about how to deal with suicidal or mentally ill members of the family. There is a section on how to cope with stress and useful contact details. As so many have obviously not been able to ask the adults nearest to them for help, perhaps this is a book to put somewhere it can be read discreetly.

(12+) *Pat Thomson*

So You Think You Know His Dark Materials?

Clive Gifford
Hodder £4.99 ISBN: 0 340 91186 7

One for the fans but possibly useful for librarians and teachers. (What is the equivalent of the Pub Quiz for children?) Over one thousand short questions on the three books. "What sort of animal was Lee Scoresby's daemon?" "Why was Iorek exiled from Svalbard?" Obsessive but fun and it does drive the reader back to the books.



(Family book) *Pat Thomson*