

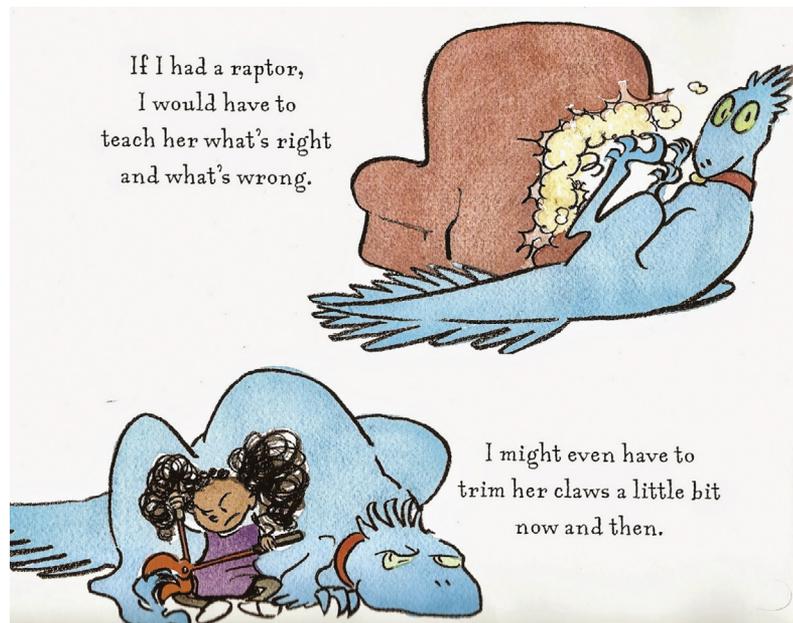
A Page in a Book®

RECOMMENDING THE BEST BOOKS FOR CHILDREN AND TEENS

By Gerry P. Smith

Kids Dig Dinosaurs

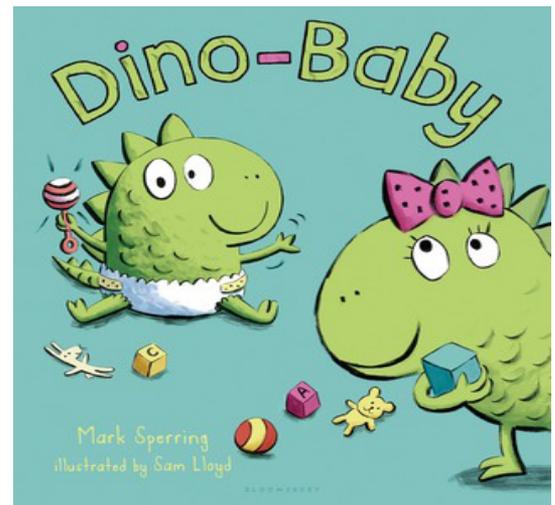
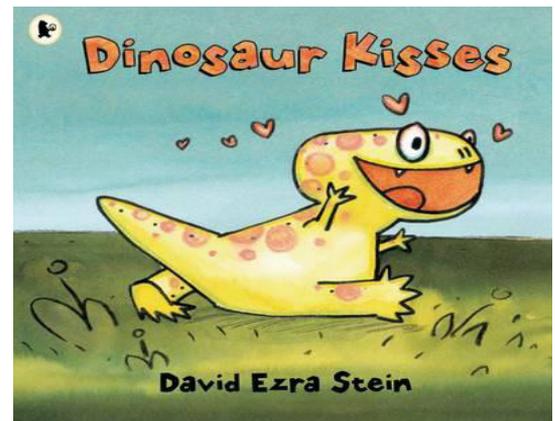
A kid's first introduction to dinosaurs has become a childhood rite of passage in this century. Even though they haven't roamed the earth in millions of years, dinosaurs have surged to the front of the pack among creatures that stir kids' imaginations. Perhaps it's their bizarre forms or the sheer size of these prehistoric marvels that capture a child's attention. But it's common knowledge that once a kid meets dinosaurs, they're instantly hooked on the whole world of wildlife that ruled the earth so long ago. The following titles are delightful early introductions to dinosaurs that younger children will really sink their teeth into!



If I Had a Raptor

By George O'Connor (Candlewick Press)

What would it be like to adopt a raptor and keep it as a pet? In this title, one young girl wants to have all her bases covered when it comes to bringing a baby dinosaur into the family. It would need a bell (because it's so tiny it could get lost). And it would need plenty of cozy places to curl up in and sunny spots to stretch out in. The girl thinks that her raptor would probably sleep all day (and run around all night). As the girl's visions of a raptor as a pet expand, young readers will smile as they begin to pick up the similarities between pet raptors and pets of a feline variety. With illustrations that underscore the cat-like behaviors a raptor might exhibit, this title is a delightful what-if musing on adopting a dinosaur as a pet.



Dinosaur Kisses

By David Ezra Stein (Candlewick)

As soon as baby Dinah emerges from her egg, she is ready to explore her great big world. She wastes no time as she begins to stomp and chomp her way around it. But when she sees a kiss for the first time, Dinah knows that it's something that she wants to try, too. But unfortunately her instincts to whomp, chomp and stomp send her mission to kiss someone awry. Even when she finally (carefully) learns how to pucker up for a kiss, she accidentally eats her target instead. Just as it seems that kissing isn't something that is going to work out for Dinah, another option emerges. A perfect partner breaks out to help her whomp, stomp and chomp her way to a kiss that works for dinosaurs like her.

Dino-Baby

By Mark Sperring, Illustrated by Sam Lloyd (Bloomsbury)

Dino-Baby is a sweet story that follows one dinosaur family as they prepare their child for the arrival of a new baby. The older sister learns the importance of quiet time during naps as well as the joys of baby dino kisses. Teaching the baby good manners and how to use the potty are also important things that an older dino sibling can help with. It's a special privilege for older siblings to be the one to introduce new arrivals in their family to the wonderful world of dinosaurs. *Dino-Baby* is an ideal baby-on-the-way title as well as a sweet picture book introduction to dinosaurs that a big sibling can look forward to sharing with the new baby.