

Early Childhood Book Challenge

Evaluation Criteria

Winning Submissions must adhere to the following Evaluation Criteria

Engaging

Manuscripts must be enjoyable and engaging for children from birth to age 3, while inspiring caregivers and children alike to read it again and again.

Research-Informed

Manuscripts must be informed by early childhood research and subtly teach caregivers ways to support early language development with infants and toddlers.

- *To get you started, we've provided a list of resources [here](#).*

Expands the Conversation

Manuscripts must be additive to the children's book space. We're eager to think beyond current narratives with stories that elevate nontraditional spaces, identities, cultural experiences, ethnic perspectives, racial backgrounds, and community experiences.

Community-Rooted

Manuscripts must reflect an urban setting and demonstrate a community-rooted perspective that resonates with residents in urban U.S. cities like Philadelphia.

Age Appropriate

Manuscripts must use vocabulary and concepts that are supportive of developing early literacy for children from birth to age 3. Manuscripts with majority Tier 1 vocabulary words and select Tier 2 vocabulary words strongly preferred.

- To get you started, we've provided [this vocabulary resource](#).

Previously Unpublished Work

Manuscripts must be unpublished. Work that has been published in any format, including online or self-published, is not eligible.

Succinct

Manuscripts must not exceed 250 words.