Baby Animals

Here is a baby cat.
A baby cat is called a kitten.

Here is a baby dog.
A baby dog is called a puppy.

Here is a baby duck.
A baby duck is called a duckling.

Here is a baby chicken. A baby chicken is called a chick.

Here is a baby sheep.
A baby sheep is called a lamb.

Here is a baby goat.
A baby goat is called a kid.

Here is a baby tiger.
A baby tiger is called a cub.

Here is a baby bear. A baby bear is called a cub too!

The Mustard Seed Books project uses an open-source, Wikipedia-type strategy, leveraging public expertise to create and refine a set of high-quality books that support early reading development. All of the books and pictures are covered by the Creative Commons License (http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/3.0/) and are free to print, distribute, and modify for personal or educational use. The books are available at www.mustardseedbooks.org. New titles appear on a regular basis.

There is a blog post on the website so that we can receive and discuss feedback on the books. These books have been revised a number of times, but we'd love to keep improving them. Any feedback is welcome. We also welcome photos or ideas for new books.

Photos for these books come primarily from Flickr (www.flickr.com) and the Morgue File (www.morguefile.com). Both sites are great resources for high-quality publicly accessible photos and for aspiring photographers looking to share their work. All photographs are covered by the Creative Commons License (http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/3.0/).

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Our aim with this series of books is to weave together two significant goals in the design of early reading materials—that the books are both instructional and engaging. Books designed to develop reading skills often end up feeling like work to read, while books designed to be interesting are often too difficult for beginning readers.

These books for beginning readers support phonics-based classroom instruction by including a high concentration of phonetically regular words, as well as the most commonly used sight words. However, the books are written using pictures and stories that make sense, with simple language structures supporting independent reading and language development. Our intent is to produce books that kids want to read, think about, talk about and read again.

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