



What is your library offering Russian-speaking families?

Research shows that children growing up in families where English is a second language become better readers when they are given the chance to **obtain early literacy skills in their own native language**. Your library can help Russian-speaking parents provide their children that opportunity by maintaining a collection of board books, picture books, and “beginning fact” books in Russian, and offering Russian storytimes run by bilingual children’s librarians or committed volunteers.

Classic Russian culture is rich in literature for children, and many respected Russian and Soviet authors – including Lev Tolstoy and Alexander Pushkin – published **children’s stories and folk tales** as regular parts of their careers. Other authors, such as those listed below, are known primarily for their work for children. Russian books for preschoolers and beginning readers are **traditionally written in verse**, making them fun to read out loud, easy to memorize, and very familiar to parents, who will be delighted to find them on your library’s shelves. Works by these authors are also available in audio format.

Storytime librarians, teachers, and parents will also be looking for resources they can use to engage young children in early-literacy activities. Also listed below are Russian books of fingerplays, games, and rhymes that anyone working with young Russian-speaking children will find very valuable.

FairVega would be happy to help you identify and purchase children’s materials for your library. Please write to us at libraries@fairvega.com for more information about how we can help you start or improve your Russian collection.

CLASSIC AUTHORS OF CHILDREN’S STORIES IN VERSE (Authority versions)

Barto, Agnĭa, 1906-1981
Chukovskĭ, Korneĭ, 1882-1969
Marshak, S. (Samuil), 1887-1964
Mikhalkov, Sergeĭ, 1913-2009
Nosov, Nikolaĭ Nikolaevich, 1908-1976
Suteev, V. (Vladimir)
Usachev, Andreĭ
Uspenskiĭ, Ė. (Éduard)
Zakhoder, Boris Vladimirovich

RUSSIAN FOLK TALES

Baba-Yaga, about a witch in a house with legs
Kolobok, a Russian *Gingerbread Man*
Kurochka Riaba, about a broken egg
Repka, the famous tale of the giant turnip
Teremok, a tale of many animals in one house

RIDDLES, RHYMES, AND ACTIVITIES FOR PRESCHOOLERS

Chitaem i igraem (“Let’s Read and Play”), V.V. Mamaeva, 2008
Chitaem i igraem vmeste s mamoi (“Reading and Playing with Mommy,” pre-reading games, in separate versions for girls and boys), I. Aseeva, 2012
Razvivaiushchĭa muzyka (translation of Music Makes Your Child Smarter), Philip Sheppard, 2009
Tishe, myshi, kot na kryshe! (Russian tongue twisters and phonics games), 2012
Zagadki, skorigovorki, sharady, zadachi (“Riddles, tongue twisters, charades, and activities”), S.V. Kosenko, 2009
Zolotaia kolleksiia zagadok dlia malchikov i devochek (Riddles for boys and girls), 2013