Our Earth/Green Living
Books for Young Children
A Select List of Brown County Library Children’s Books
(Preschool – Early Elementary)
Click on each title below to see the library’s catalog record. Then click on the title in the record for details, current availability, or to place a hold. For additional books and items on this theme, ask your librarian or search the library’s online catalog.

Picture Books

Ants in Your Pants, Worms in Your Plants!: Gilbert Goes Green by Diane DeGroat
At This Very Moment by Jim Arnosky
Ballyhoo Bay by Judy Sierra
The Berenstain Bears Don’t Pollute (Anymore)/The Berenstain Bears Go Green by Stan Berenstain
Big and Small, Room for All by Jo Ellen Bogart
A Brand New Day with Mouse and Mole by Wong Herbert Yee
A Bus Called Heaven by Bob Graham
The Busy Tree by Jennifer Ward
Cool Time Song by Carole Schaefer
Crafty Chloe by Kelly DiPucchio
The Curious Garden by Peter Brown
Curious George Plants a Tree by H.A. Rey
Dinosaur Woods: Can Seven Clever Critters Save their Earth Home? by George McClements
The Eagles are Back by Jean Craighead George
Earth & Me, Our Family Tree by Patrick Lewis
The Earth and I by Frank Asch
Earth Day, Birthday! by Maureen Wright
Earth Mother by Ellen Jackson
Here Comes the Garbage Barge by Jonah Winter
The Great Kapok Tree: A Tale of the Amazon Rainforest by Lynne Cherry
The Family Tree by David McPhail
The Great Paper Caper by Oliver Jeffers
Green by Laura Vaccaro Seeger
Seeger is well-known for her innovative concept books that feature die-cuts and surprises galore. Green teaches the concept of the shades within a single color. From the blue-green shade of the sunlit sea to the crisp green of a lime, this is both a sophisticated color study and a celebration of nature for preschool through kindergarten.
The Green Line by Polly Farquharson
How to Help the Earth by Tish Rabe (beginning reader)
Jam and Honey by Melita Morales
Junkyard by Mike Austin
Just a Dream by Chris Van Allsburg (Grades 1-5)
A Leaf Can Be by Laura Purdie Salas
This wonder-filled little book with poetic but brief rhymes lists the many important roles of leaves. From water dishes for animals to protective cocoon cradles to ground cover, this ode to the mighty leaf touches on photosynthesis and the four seasons. The illustrations have a stencil and airbrush effect that fill the pages with a cheerful, folkloric glow. Additional details are appended in a “more about leaves” section. Pair this with Barbara Reid’s Picture a Tree, which depicts the many important qualities of trees with brief text and lively clay illustration. Ages 3-8.

Let’s Have a Tree Party by David Martin
The Lorax by Dr. Seuss
Me—Jane by Patrick McDonnell
Mole Had Everything by Jamison Odone
More by I.C. Springman
An enigmatic magpie clutches a marble resembling a tiny planet earth on the cover of I.C. Springman’s More. Like humans, the magpie likes to acquire things that catch his eye, and soon the “more, more, more” of it all bypasses “enough” and becomes too much. Magpie feels unsatisfied and crowded by a nest filled with trinkets with lots of potential but little value to the bird. Some wise and kindly mice help magpie come up with a solution that spreads goodwill and leaves magpie with a few items that he will treasure all the more. Springman touches on an important discussion with minimal but effective verse that keeps this lesson from being heavy-handed. Illustrator Brian Lie’s photo-realistic images are striking against their parchment background. For an “earth day, every day” pairing, contrast this clever parable with Kelly DiPucchio’s Crafty Chloe, a cheerful story of “re-use” in which a creative child eschews the toy store in favor of a more thoughtful birthday gift for an appreciative friend.

Mossy by Jan Brett
Nibbles: A Green Tale/Nibbles Garden: Another Green Tale by Charlotte Middleton
OK Go by Carin Berger
On Meadowview Street by Henry Cole
One Gorilla by Anthony Browne
This striking large-format counting book highlights primates illustrated in stunning detail against stark white backgrounds. From gibbons to mandrills to the regal gorilla that graces the cover, a diverse group of human’s closest genetic neighbors are represented. Even within each type of primate, each individual is depicted with a different expression that reflects it’s unique personality. Browne emphasizes this close connection by depicting a diverse group portrait of twenty humans, and declaring “All primates/All one family/all my family...and yours!” This thought-provoking yet simple book can be used as a traditional counting book or to launch more in-depth research about primates. Ages 4-8.
Our Community Garden by Barbara Pollack
Out of the Way! Out of the Way! by Uma Krishnaswami
Over in the Forest: Come Take a Peek by Marianne Berkes
Panda Kindergarten by Joanne Ryder
Picture a Tree by Barbara Reid
Quiet in the Garden by Aliki
Round Like a Ball! by Lisa Ernst Campbell
Seed Magic by Jane Buchanan
Slow Down for Manatees by Jim Arnosky
The Snail and the Whale by Julia Donaldson
The Story of Frog Belly Rat Bone by Timothy Ering

Readers will be enticed by the cover of this picture book which appears to be hand-stitched, moss-drenched, and covered in a childlike scrawl. A gleeful frog-ogre hybrid creature and a childishly-drawn little boy holding a daisy complete the effect that this artifact was unearthed from a strange, Seussian garden. In fact, the whimsical and slightly dark tone of “Frog Belly Rat Bone,” along with a clear environmental message, pay tribute to Seuss’ “The Lorax.” Sometime in a bleak future, a young boy finds a box with a note and dozens of little “specks” in the midst of “a dull, gray, endless place called Cementland.” Planting the specks as instructed by the note, the boy creates a monster out of junk to guard the treasure. Knighted Frog Belly Rat Bone, the noble yet smelly creature watches over the treasure, catching the thieves—rat, rabbit, and fruit fly—before they can uproot the treasure once again. When a beautiful garden starts to unfurl over the cement landscape like a magic carpet, the thieving trio beg forgiveness from the gentle Frog Belly and become tenders of the new, green world. Poetic language and surreal illustrations combine in this timely fable for ages 5-9.

There Was a Tree by Rachel Isadora
These Bees Count by Alison Formento
These Seas Count by Alison Formento
Uno’s Garden by Graeme Base
We Are Extremely Very Good Recyclers by Lauren Child
Where Once There was a Wood by Denise Fleming
The Wump World by Bill Peet
The Yellow Cab by Marcus Pfister

Non-Fiction

A+ Books Amazing Animal Adaptations (series)
A+ Books: Nature Riddles (series)
A+ Books: Nature Starts (series)
Actual Size by Steve Jenkins
Caring for Our Earth by Sally Hewitt
A Cool Drink of Water by Barbara Kerley
Earth Day by Clara Cella
Food Chain Reactions (series) by Suzanne Slade
From Flower to Honey by Robin Nelson
Fun with Nature by Annalees Lim
Garbage Helps Our Garden Grow: A Compost Story by Linda Glaser
Global Warming by Anthony Lishak
Global Warming by Susannah Bradley
Jack’s Garden by Henry Cole
Oh Say Can You Seed? by Bonnie Worth
Out on the Prairie by Donna Bateman
Recycling, Step by Step by Jean Lundquist
Rainforest by Sean Callery
The Rainforest Grew All Around by Susan Mitchell
Rourke Discovery Library (series)
The short, concise books in this series simplify complex subjects for young children. Titles include “Trees: Earth’s Lungs,” “Clean and Green Energy,” and “Filling the Earth with Trash.” Important vocabulary words are bolded and described in a glossary. Clear, bright photos add to a kid-friendly presentation which works equally well as a read aloud or beginning reader. Ages 4-8.

Save Earth’s Animals (series) by Marie Allgor
Save the (series) by Sarah Eason
Step Gently Out—by Helen Frost

http://tinyurl.com/BCLReadsKids