

About the Author

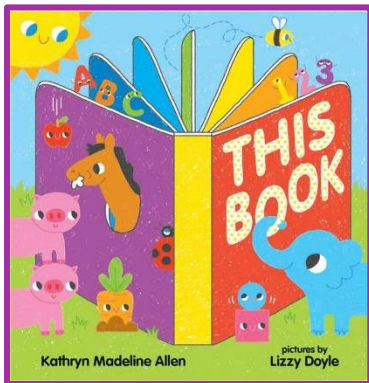
Kathryn Madeline Allen is a children's author whose books promote adult-child interaction and help teach babies and young children about topics like communication, diversity, manners, and love.

Her recent books are *This Book, I Am a Baby, Show Me Happy,* and *A Kiss Means I Love You.* A longtime college educator and SCBWI member, she also writes poems, short stories, and articles.

Ms. Allen is available for book signings, author visits, and conference presentations. She lives in Michigan with her family.



Recent Books



This Book

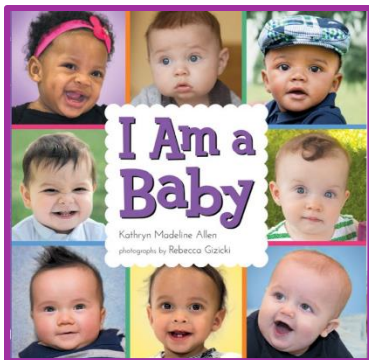
by Kathryn Madeline Allen

pictures by Lizzy Doyle

Albert Whitman & Co, 2018

ISBN 978-0-8075-7881-0 (Board Bk)

Teaching little ones essential preschool concepts? With letters, numbers, shapes, and more, *This Book* has them all! Babies and toddlers will delight in the colorful images and in seeing themselves as readers. A great tool for early literacy, *This Book* is a must-have for every home and preschool collection!



I Am a Baby

by Kathryn Madeline Allen

photos by Rebecca Gizicki

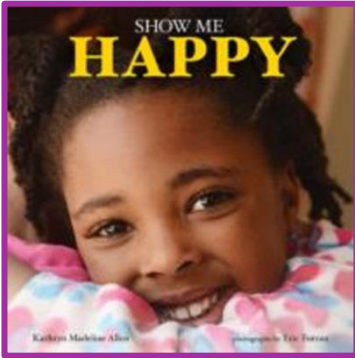
Albert Whitman & Co, 2016

ISBN 978-0-8075-3622-3 (Picture Bk)

ISBN 978-0-8075-3624-7 (Board Bk)

Babies and cribs, high chairs and bibs, blocks and trucks, doggies and ducks! Through lighthearted, encouraging words and photos of happy babies, *I Am a Baby* introduces important objects, people, and pets in babies' and toddlers' lives. An irresistible read-aloud for every child and family!

Recent Books (continued)

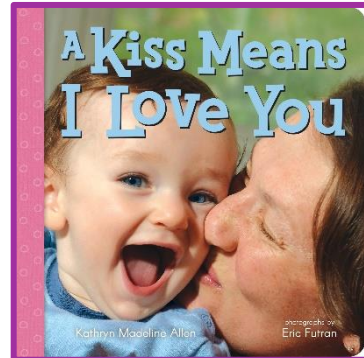
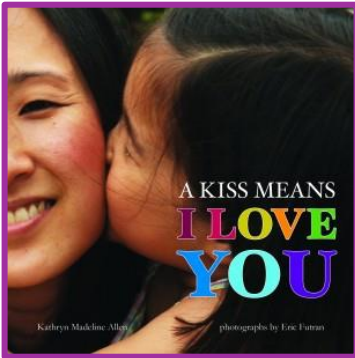


Show Me Happy

by Kathryn Madeline Allen
photographs by Eric Futran
Albert Whitman & Co, 2015

ISBN 978-0-8075-7349-5 (Picture Bk)
ISBN 978-0-8075-7353-2 (Board Bk)

Show Me Happy “shows” early learners simple actions and concepts that all children learn as they begin to socialize and communicate. Lively, charming photos illustrate real kids doing common activities like helping and sharing. *Show Me Happy* is a delightful read-aloud that makes any storytime expressive and fun.



A Kiss Means I Love You

by Kathryn Madeline Allen
photographs by Eric Futran
Albert Whitman & Co, 2012

ISBN 978-0-8075-4186-9 (Picture Bk)
ISBN 978-0-8075-4189-0 (Board Bk)

A Kiss Means I Love You introduces babies and toddlers to the meanings of facial expressions and gestures. Children will wave, clap, and cheer along with the light, rhyming verse paired with delightful photos of young children. An award-winner and popular bedtime book!

Reviews

This Book

“Brief introductions to a range of concepts culminate in an enthusiastic shoutout to “readers like you!” Relentlessly enthusiastic, this self-aware book charges through, informing readers about its many snippets of information ... Like its narrative, the cartoon illustrations are also resolutely cheery.” *Kirkus Reviews*

I Am a Baby

“Glowing smiles and innocent eyes of baby faces greet children at each page turn in this photo-illustrated read-aloud. With wide-eyed expressions, the photo subjects identify, introduce, or reinforce names of common objects and people in a baby or toddler's world ... A final spread includes diverse family groups with babies and pets, each photo emphasizing loving relationships and belonging ... Perfect for lapsit programs.” *School Library Journal*

“Rhyming text paired with cheery photos of racially diverse babies creates a warm invitation to reading for little ones and their caregivers. Here's a book to help babies one day say I am a reader.” *Kirkus Reviews*

Reviews (continued)

Show Me Happy

"Care was obviously taken to include a diversity of ages, genders and skin colors ... A sweetness in the images and the text elevates the book from sheer simplicity to usefulness in providing behavioral role models ... A nice addition to the bookshelves of day care centers, preschools and families with young children." *Kirkus Reviews*

"The large, attractive photographs of children are teamed with simple text to depict actions and emotions ... The work displays opposites, emotions, & everyday activities with which young children will relate and identify... A fine addition to most picture book collections." *School Library Journal*

"Candid photographs of children—both alone and accompanied by parents, friends, and siblings—and short, demonstrative phrases highlight a range of behaviors and activities in this book ... The large photographs clearly communicate concepts ... creating many opportunities for adult-child discussions while reading." *Publishers Weekly*

A Kiss Means I Love You

"The book is a solid introduction to a range of human expressions and the concept of nonverbal communication." *Kirkus Reviews*

"Allen and Futran have created a book with a purpose that is also fun to read ... The rhythm of the text is bouncy and easy to read aloud. This title will work well in a program or one-on-one." *School Library Journal*

"This inviting picture book offers opportunities for observation, empathy, and open-ended discussion." *Booklist (Online Review)*

Recognition and Awards

This Book

- **Moonbeam Children's Book Awards 2018:** Silver Medal, Board Books

A Kiss Means I Love You

- **Best Books for Babies 2013:** Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh, The Fred Rogers Company, Pittsburgh Association for the Education of Young Children
- **Best Children's Books for Family Literacy, 2013 Baker's Dozen:** PA Center for the Book
- **Best of the Best Books 2013:** Chicago Public Library
- **Distinguished Books List:** Association of Children's Librarians of Northern California
- **Texas Library Association 2013 2x2 Reading List**
- **2013 Gradiva® Award Finalist:** National Association for the Advancement of Psychoanalysis
- **Moonbeam Children's Book Awards 2017:** Gold Medal, Board Books

Press

Ambassador Magazine, November-December 2012



LOCAL AUTHOR CAPTIVATES CHILDREN WITH INTERACTIVE NEW BOOK

Local author Kathryn Madeline Allen recently released her new children's book, *A Kiss Means I Love You*, published by Albert Whitman & Company.

Allen said the inspiration for the book came from her first son.

"When he was a baby, I wanted to write a book about the things that happen in the course of a baby's day," Allen said. "I didn't get around to writing it until many years later. It started out with facial expressions and gestures that a baby or young child would encounter, and then evolved into a book about children and the nonverbal communication they encounter each day."

The end product is an interactive book that encourages babies and children to explore common expressions and gestures, such as waving, smiling and laughing, as well as some sounds, such as roaring. The child shares these activities with the adult who's reading the book aloud.

The book's photographer, Eric Futran, captured beautiful photos of a diverse range of babies and toddlers, printed in full color.

At a recent book signing, Allen had the opportunity to watch a child acting out different characters as her mother read the book to her. The idea is to get children excited about the pictures of the babies, even if they are too young to read. In fact, Allen recommends reading to children as early and frequently as possible—even starting when they are babies.

"Reading to children, starting at a young age, is so important," Allen said. "It helps with the development of language, it fosters a love of reading, and it helps them become better students later in life."

Allen also encourages parents to take their children to the library. "We have some great libraries in the Detroit area with wonderful,

lively children's sections. Many of them have been renovated recently, and they often invite authors in to have story time," Allen said, adding that children should be encouraged to check out lots of books.

In Allen's case, she said she was always encouraged by her parents to write and be creative. Her sixth grade teacher chose her to participate in a young writers' conference at Oakland University, which helped her realize she wanted to be a writer someday.

One other important lesson her parents stressed was manners, and that, too, shaped Allen's future. One of her previous books, *This Little Piggy's Book of Manners*, is about the importance of good manners. It is targeted towards ages 2-6 and features collage illustrations by Nancy Wolff. She is currently working on another book for children about table manners. When not working on children's books, Allen teaches professional communication and children's literature at Oakland Community College. Some of her favorite children's books include classics such as *Goodnight Moon* because of its illustrations and quiet tone.

"I also love the Madeline series," Allen said. "I always liked that she was brave and she lived with other girls in France." Allen also includes Illustrator Jerry Pinkney, whose work was recently featured at the Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History in Detroit, in her list of favorites. Books by Paul Fleischman and Michigan author, Christopher Paul Curtis, top her list too.

Where to find Allen's most recent book? *A Kiss Means I Love You* (listed for \$15.99) is available online or at your local bookstore. 👑 — Jennifer Baum

pc: Andrew Potter, *Ambassador Magazine*