



blue manatee press

Cincinnati, Ohio  
Spring 2016 Catalog

# A letter from Dr. John:

## Welcome to blue manatee press!

Dear advocates for children, children's books and their intersection:

Having been a bookseller for over 15 years (and a father for over 20), I know firsthand how difficult the book business is and how selective we are when deciding what to order. As a pediatrician and literacy researcher, I am also passionate about the power of books to promote cognitive and social-emotional development. **That's why we adhere to these principles when compiling our catalog:**

★ **Quality:** We strive to create inspiring, enduring books for children from infancy through elementary school, paying close attention to developmental stage, content, readability and aesthetics. We work with talented authors and artists, using fresh ideas and a variety of media. Our books are exclusively printed in the USA, adhering to environmental and worker protections.

★ **Mission:** We are dedicated to a landscape of childhood rich in togetherness and imagination, fueled by time spent sharing a book. From lap time bonding in infancy to rhyming and concepts later on, we embrace our role as an advocate for this critical caregiver-child experience. Many of our books convey important health themes, such as screen time reduction and infant care.

★ **Market:** Our books are "road tested" and refined at a community-focused, independent children's bookstore. Our perspective of book-seller/publisher provides unique insight into customer interests. We specialize in books for infants and young children, a robust demographic that we know and love.

We hope that you will give our books a try, as we work together to nurture a world brimming with happy, healthy, lifelong readers. Thank you for all that you do and we wish you great success!

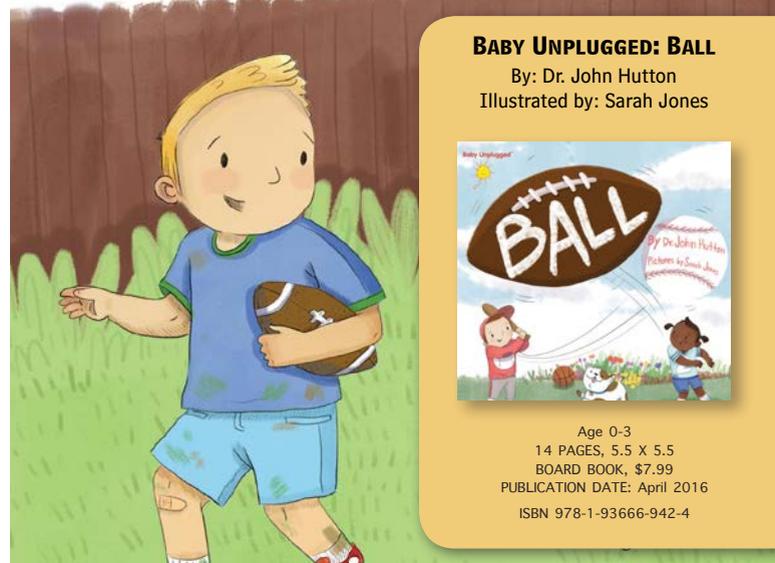
Sincerely,

Dr. John S. Hutton, MD



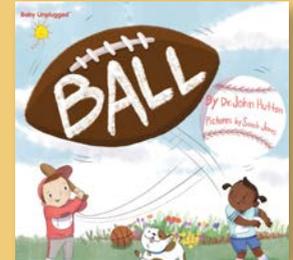
# New for Spring 2016!

Whether imagining big sport dreams or playing in the backyard, fun and adventure abound with Baby Unplugged: Ball. Dedicated to simple yet developmentally stimulating icons and experiences of childhood, this series encourages children to have fun discovering their world through real experiences rather than through screen-based media. From baseballs to beach balls, and every kind in between, the ball is a beloved shape to children.



## BABY UNPLUGGED: BALL

By: Dr. John Hutton  
Illustrated by: Sarah Jones



Age 0-3  
14 PAGES, 5.5 X 5.5  
BOARD BOOK, \$7.99  
PUBLICATION DATE: April 2016  
ISBN 978-1-93666-942-4

### About the Author:

**Dr. John Hutton** is a pediatrician, author, and owner of the award-winning blue manatee children's bookstore in Cincinnati, OH, and affiliate site blue manatee boxes. He is the founder of the blog Baby Unplugged, whose mission is to help keep children screen-free until 3 and promote healthy, developmental-stimulating alternatives.

### About the Illustrator:

**Sarah Jones** is an artist and author living in Cincinnati, Ohio. When she's not painting creative critters in her studio, Sarah can be found playing guitar & leading story time at the award winning blue manatee children's bookstore, where she works and plays. Sarah holds a BFA in Painting and Art Education from Miami University and an MFA from the University of Cincinnati.

# New for Spring 2016!

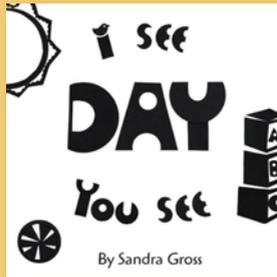
First title in the new I See, You See series!

Explores such quintessential moments of baby's day from sun up to sun down, like a stroll in the park, bath time, and more! Children and their grownups alike will enjoy spotting the three hidden objects on each page of baby's day. High-contrast, cut-paper illustrations are sure to be eye-catching for even the youngest reader in this engaging seek and find



## I SEE, YOU SEE: DAY

By: Sandra Gross



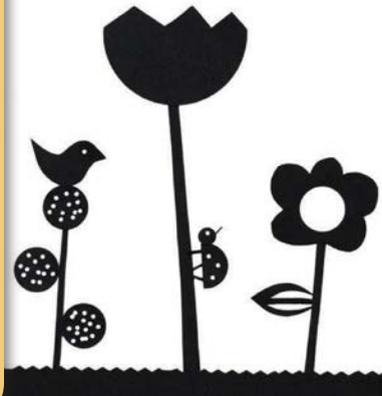
Age 0-3

14 PAGES, 5.5 X 5.5

BOARD BOOK, \$7.99

PUBLICATION DATE: April 2016

ISBN 978-1-93666-944-8



About the Author:

**About the Author:** Sandra Gross is an artist and educator from Cincinnati, OH. She is the co-creator of the award-winning Toast to Baby series, has won numerous art awards, and teaches extensively to both grownups and children. She holds an MFA from Miami University, as well as an M.Ed. in Montessori Education from Xavier University. She works in multiple-media, with a passion for paper and glass.



Words, weather, wear! What's the weather like today? It doesn't matter if it's snowy, sunny, rainy, or windy, you'll be ready with this fun and colorful word book!

## READY FOR WEATHER

By: Sarah Jones



Age 0-3

14 PAGES, 5.5 X 5.5

BOARD BOOK, \$7.99

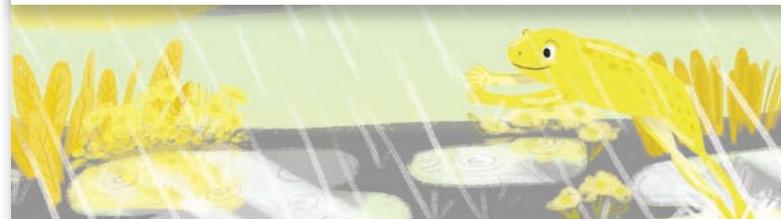
PUBLICATION DATE: April 2016

ISBN 978-1-93666-943-1



About the Author:

**Sarah Jones** is an author and illustrator living and working in Cincinnati, OH. She loves making art, rain or shine, and leads guitar story time at the award-winning blue manatee children's bookstore.

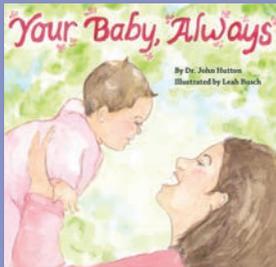


# New from the best-selling Love Baby Healthy Series:

A gentle, rhyming story told from baby's point of view, celebrating the joyous developmental milestones during baby's first years. From smiles, to steps, to words, babies grow fast, and **Your Baby, Always** reminds parents to cherish this special time together, reinforcing recommendations and encouraging parent-child bonding through reading and play.

## YOUR BABY, ALWAYS

By: Dr. John Hutton  
& Illustrated by: Leah Busch



Age 0-3  
14 PAGES, 5.5 X 5.5  
BOARD BOOK, \$7.99  
PUBLICATION DATE: SEPTEMBER 2015  
ISBN 978-1-93666-935-6

### About the Author:

**Dr. John Hutton** is a pediatrician and clinical research fellow at the Cincinnati Children's Hospital Reading and Literacy Discovery Center, author, and owner of blue manatee children's bookstore. His research foci are the influence of home reading environment and screen time on early brain development, improving reading interventions for at-risk families, and the development of children's books to convey pediatric health information.

### About the Illustrator:

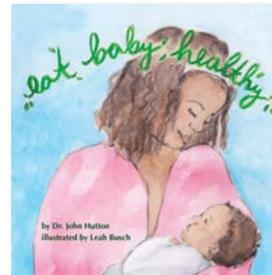
**Leah Busch** is an artist from Cincinnati, OH. She has held numerous positions in the arts, won numerous awards including for her Toast to Baby children's book series, teaches extensively, and holds an MFA from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago.



An ideal baby shower gift!

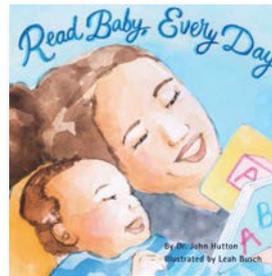


## EAT BABY, HEALTHY



ISBN 978-1-93666-930-1 \* \$7.99

## READ BABY, EVERY DAY



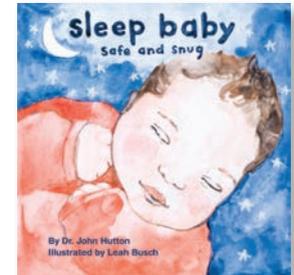
ISBN 978-1-93666-934-9 \* \$7.99

The groundbreaking **Love Baby Healthy** series was developed by a pediatrician to provide important, evidence-based infant health information to families in a nurturing, affirming way. National partners include Reach Out and Read, Healthy Families America/Prevent Child Abuse America, and Charlie's Kids Foundation.

\*Also available in Spanish

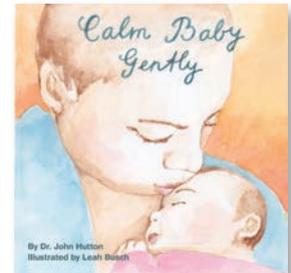
“ Like other bedtime classics, a sweet rhythmic story perfect for sharing. On a deeper level, it conveys safe sleep practices in a creative way. An exemplary, inspired new advocacy for SIDS prevention, and ideal gift for parents. I strongly recommend it!  
- Rachel Y. Moon, Professor of Pediatrics and Associate Chief, Division of General Pediatrics and Community Health, Children's National Medical Center

## SLEEP BABY, SAFE AND SNUG



ISBN 978-1-93666-916-5 \* \$7.99

## CALM BABY GENTLY



ISBN 978-1-93666-928-8 \* \$7.99

“ This warm and soothing [series] provides helpful suggestions and comforting reassurance at a time when parents need it most. A must read! ”

- Margaret Clark, senior director, Every Child Succeeds

# Sarah Jones

Lloyd Llama loves many things: lollipops, spelling, cello, and the color yellow—anything with a double L, really! Will he ever learn to get along with his new classmate Al Alpaca, who has an affinity for all things beginning with the letter A, like apples, art, and air guitar? The two characters settle their differences with the help of their favorite letters in this alliterative adventure.

“This hilarious book plays with words on every page and will charm children and adults alike as these adorable allies find common ground. The lesson on friendship is matched by the goofiness in this truly unique story.”

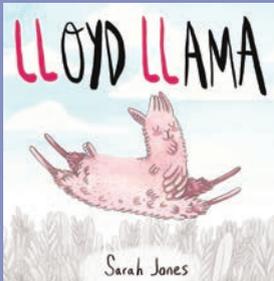
– Foreword Reviews

## About the Author

Sarah Jones is an artist, educator and storyteller from Cincinnati, Ohio. Whether rocking musical story time at the award-winning blue manatee children’s bookstore or painting creative critters in her studio, Sarah loves to spread joy through art. Sarah regularly exhibits her work in a broad range of venues and holds an MFA from the University of Cincinnati.



New this year



Age 4-7  
40 PAGES, 9 X 9  
HARDCOVER PICTURE BOOK, \$17.99  
PUBLICATION DATE: JUNE 2015  
ISBN 978-1-936669-325

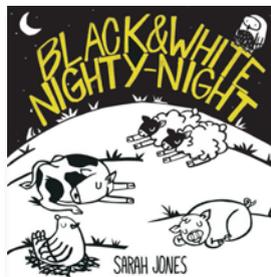


## Also by Sarah Jones

The ROYGBaby Series  
–Colorful Concept Books

“I would definitely say that if you’re in the market for a board book that will be good for more than a month, that you consider BUNNIES NEAR AND FAR. I think [Sarah]’s amazing!”

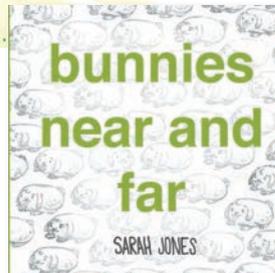
– Pam Tee, BooksForKidsReviews.com



“Easy, rhythmic text and appealing, high-contrast illustrations on sturdy board pages make this a sweet and suitable addition to lap-time programs or baby’s nighttime routine.”

– Kirkus Reviews

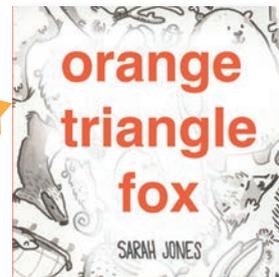
ISBN 978-1-936669-31-8 \* \$7.99



ISBN 978-1-936669-22-6 \* \$7.99 \*

★ “In this triple threat (at least as far as concept books go), Cincinnati-based author/artist Jones makes a strong debut as she explores seven colors, shapes, and animals... Jones’s clever portraits ooze personality, and will appeal to children and book-buying adults alike.”

★ Publishers Weekly (starred review)



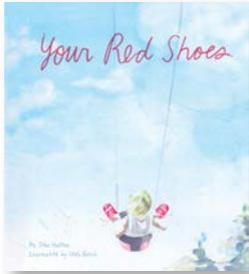
ISBN 978-1-936669-21-9 \* \$7.99

# Picture Books



Moonbeam  
Children's Book Awards  
Gold Medal in the  
Picture Book/Preschool  
Category

Nominee:  
Foreword Reviews  
2014 INDIEFAB  
Book of the  
Year



Age 3-5  
40 PAGES, 9 X 10  
Hardcover Picture Book, \$17.99  
PUBLICATION DATE: APRIL 2014  
ISBN 9781936669196



"I tied your red shoes for you today. Where will you go in them? How many steps will you take? So many since the first. Was it yesterday or long ago?"

A celebration of early childhood, step by step: from first wobbly ones, to puddles, the park, and the day – so soon? – when that first, beloved pair of shoes no longer fit. Lush watercolors and rhythmic, evocative text document every proud moment, reinforcing universal themes of independence, exploration, and unconditional love.

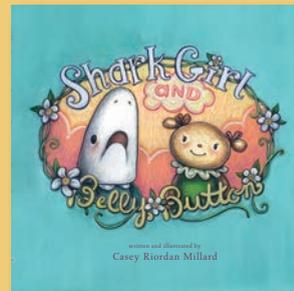
An ideal read-aloud, baby shower gift, or for Mother's Day, Father's Day, or Graduation



"Your Red Shoes is a gentle, heartwarming story perfect to read aloud and share with little ones."  
- by Midwest Book Review

Shark Girl sees the world in a worried way. Belly Button is more buoyant. Together, they share five "trifles" - light and fluffy or of little importance, depending on one's perspective: writing a letter, making paper dolls, going to a party and the playground, and appreciating the value of things, most especially their friendship. This sweet set of stories combines humor, emotion, and insight, inviting the reader to look beyond physical appearance and into the thoughts and dreams inside us all.

**SHARK GIRL AND BELLY BUTTON**  
By Casey Riordan Millard



Age 4-7  
40 PAGES, 9 X 9  
HARDCOVER PICTURE BOOK, \$17.99  
PUBLICATION DATE: SEPTEMBER 2014  
ISBN 978193666927

"The odd juxtaposition of delicacy and ferocity not only inspires a smile but melts one's heart."  
- by Melissa Starker for The Columbus Dispatch

"...the shark becomes a complex presence in this seemingly innocent, dreamy world..."  
- by JL Schnabel for Hi Fructose magazine

Nominee:  
Foreword Reviews  
2014 INDIEFAB  
Book of the Year



About the Author  
Casey Riordan Millard has exhibited her artwork throughout the United States since graduating from Ohio University in 1994. Casey created Shark Girl in 2004 while confronting her rational and irrational fears. She lives in Cincinnati, Ohio with her husband, their two sons, and two cats. Shark Girl and Belly Button is her first children's book.



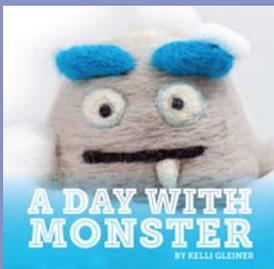
# Bright and Brilliant Board Books

Nominee:  
Foreword Reviews  
2014 INDIEFAB  
Book of the Year



## A DAY WITH MONSTER

By Kelli Gleiner



ISBN 978-1-936669-26-4 \* \$7.99



“Whether he’s slurping yarn spaghetti or enjoying a foamy bubble bath, Monster and his expressive, caterpillar-like eyebrows exude charm.”

– Publishers Weekly

### About the Author

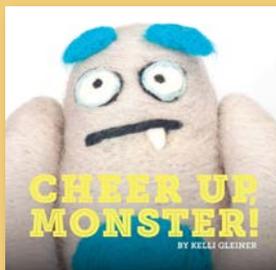
**Kelli Gleiner** is a fiber artist and art educator from Cincinnati, Ohio. When not felting or entertaining little monsters at work, she shares good cheer with her young son.

“Each page contains the most adorable monster and little sculpted fabric props, bright rich colors and simple words. I want one!”

– Loren Long, author/illustrator, Otis and Of Thee I Sing

## CHEER UP MONSTER

By Kelli Gleiner



ISBN 978-1-936669-15-8 \* \$7.99

### About the Author

**Dr. John Hutton** is a pediatrician at Cincinnati Children’s Hospital. He has had many adventures with Sherm the Germ, personally, as well as through his patients.

### About the Illustrator

**Maria Montag** is an artist from Cincinnati, OH with a BFA from Miami University. She loves to go on adventures through her art, and was delighted when in parachuted Sherm the Germ! This is Maria’s first children’s book.



Written by pediatrician and health literacy expert

Dr. John Hutton, and brought to life through playful illustrations, this fun, rhyming book describes the stages of becoming sick and then all-better.

A perfect read-aloud for get well soon, budding physician/scientists, or for any time at all!

## SLEEPY BEE

By Dr. John Hutton  
and Sandra Gross



ISBN 978-1-936669-27-1 \* \$7.99

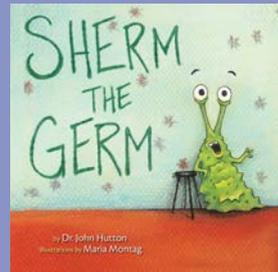
### About the Author and Artist

**Dr. John Hutton** is a pediatrician and author of the Baby Unplugged children’s book series. **Sandra Gross** is an artist and educator, with a passion for paper and glass, and co-creator of the Toast to Baby series.

Together, **John and Sandy** “pollinated” blue manatee children’s bookstore, Brazee Street School of Glass, and Sleepy Bee Café, which features and celebrates locally-sourced, bee-dependent foods. They live in the woods with their 3 children, 2 dogs, 3 beehives, and many other fantastic creatures.

## SHERM THE GERM

By Dr. John Hutton  
Illustrated by Maria Montag

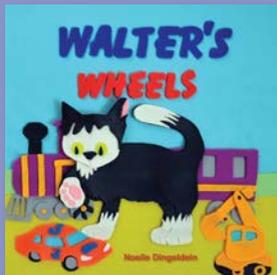


ISBN 978-1-936669-24-0 \* 7.99

Moonbeam  
Children’s Book Awards  
Bronze Medal Winner:  
Best Board Book



**WALTER'S WHEELS**  
By Noelle Dingeldein



Age 0-3  
14 PAGES, 5.5 X 5.5  
BOARD BOOK, \$7.99  
PUBLICATION DATE: SEPTEMBER 2015  
ISBN 978-1-93666-936-3

This imaginative adventure follows Walter the cat as he explores his favorite places to see exciting examples of wheels in action. Whether at the farm, the busy construction site, or the zooming race track, there is always much to see and find on each amazingly detailed spread. Illustrations made from clay are perfect for inspiring creative play!

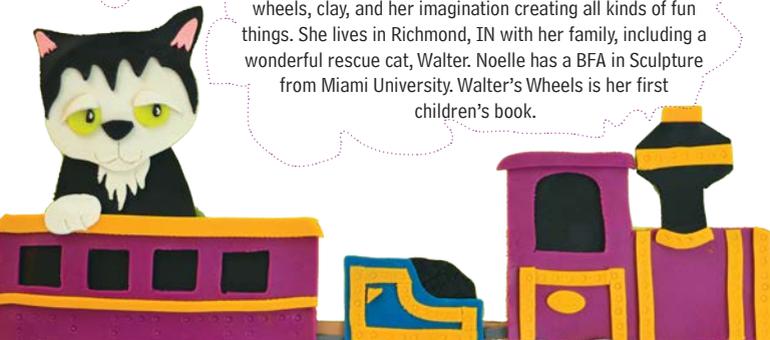


“ Things that go, a cat to find, cheerful colors, and slight text make a board book that will engage young readers. ”

— Kirkus Reviews

**About the Author:**

Noelle Dingeldein spends her days working with wheels, clay, and her imagination creating all kinds of fun things. She lives in Richmond, IN with her family, including a wonderful rescue cat, Walter. Noelle has a BFA in Sculpture from Miami University. Walter's Wheels is her first children's book.



In this fantastic concept book, perfect for building early literacy skills and a fun addition to a child's first library, the alphabet is introduced through bright and clever illustrations of animals and actions. From an anteater adding ants on an abacus to a chef-capped crab cooking chicken, these alliterative animals are sure to prove just how very voweluable learning the alphabet can be!

“ This whimsical presentation of the alphabet is good fun for both toddlers and their adults. ”

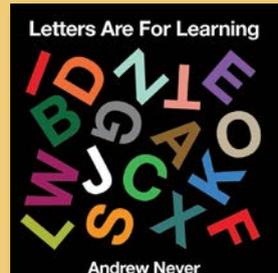
— Kirkus Reviews

**About the Author:**

Andrew Neyer is an American Artist & Designer. He received his BFA in Printmaking from the Maryland Institute College of Art in 2008. Andrew currently lives in Cincinnati with his wife and their children. Neyer's work is a combination of minimalism and wit. Letters Are For Learning is his first children's book.



**LETTERS ARE FOR LEARNING**  
By: Andrew Neyer



Age 0-3  
22 PAGES, 5.5 X 5.5  
BOARD BOOK, \$9.99  
PUBLICATION DATE: SEPTEMBER 2015  
ISBN 978-1-93666-937-0



# BABY UNPLUGGED™



Curriculum? Imagination. Batteries? Nope. Senses? All. Learning? Lots. Old-school? Absolutely – let’s play!...and read...and sleep...

The Baby Unplugged™ children’s book series by pediatrician Dr. John Hutton was inspired as a response to the explosion of screen-based products marketed as “educational,” despite no evidence of benefit and evidence of harm with excessive use. Such products promote parental anxiety and the illusion that technology is somehow necessary, better than a child’s innate senses, curiosity, and desire to connect. The reality is that children need and learn best through real experiences, real people, and exploring the real world. Baby Unplugged is a celebration of timeless childhood experiences and icons – blankets, yards, pets, books, blocks – each a catalyst for togetherness, rooted in how developing brains work. They are reassurance that “old-school” is not only OK, but the best school there is.

Technology can wait. Unplug, tune in, and have fun!



“These books work on so many levels, with poetry to hear, pictures to talk about, and a powerful message. They give children just the sort of delightful and mind-expanding experiences they need, while leading parents to see the child’s world through a creative and joyful lens. Wonderful medicine for an overly electronic age!”

– Dr. Robert Needleman, MD, Associate Professor of Pediatrics, Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine and co-founder, Reach Out and Read.

About the Author  
Dr. John Hutton is a pediatrician, author, and children’s bookseller from Cincinnati, OH. He is a national expert in pediatric general and health literacy, as well as in the importance of shared reading and parent-child engagement for healthy brain development. Learn more at [www.BabyUnplugged.com](http://www.BabyUnplugged.com)



About the Illustrators  
Sarah Jones is an artist, author, educator, and storyteller with an MFA from the University of Cincinnati.

Andrea Kang is a toy designer and illustrator with degrees in fine art and art education from the Rhode Island School of Design.

## BEACH



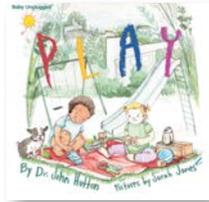
978-1-936669-07-3 \* \$7.99

## WATER



978-1-936669-20-2 \* \$7.99

## PLAY

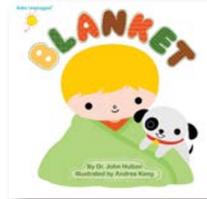


978-1-936669-23-3 \* \$7.99

“Simple isn’t always easy to pull off; to stand the test of time, a board book needs to have a straightforward message, wide appeal, and entertaining pictures that are fun to look at over and over again. Luckily, John Hutton and Andrea Kang’s board books fit the bill.”

– ForeWord Reviews

## BLANKET



978-1-936669-00-4 \* \$7.99

## BOX



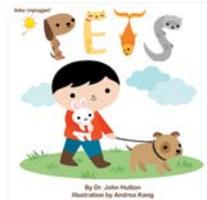
978-1-936669-08-0 \* \$7.99

## BLOCKS



978-1-936669-13-4 \* \$7.99

## PETS



978-1-936669-02-8 \* \$7.99

## BOOK



978-1-936669-06-6 \* \$7.99

## YARD



978-1-936669-01-1 \* \$7.99

# Toast to Baby

Winner of a Mom's Choice Awards Gold Medal!



Bright and colorful images of kiln-formed glass that look good enough to eat introduce basic concepts in a fun and creative way. So yummy looking, young readers will want to make their own!

“Books, art, children, kiln-fired glass, and the amazing team of artists and educators from Brazee Studios and Blue Manatee. It's a recipe like none I've ever seen for cooking up creativity in kids. A Toast to their remarkable vision!”

- Lani McGregor, Director, Bullseye Gallery / Partner, Bullseye Glass Co.

## About the Artists

Sandra Gross and Leah Busch have worked together for over sixteen years as artists, friends, and educators. Together they created Brazee Street Studios, and award-winning glass resource center, where they collaborate in projects ranging from fine art installations to introducing young children to the wonderful properties of glass. When Busch and Gross are not creating glass art, you can find them teaching among the bees and butterflies at Brazee Street Studios.

Sandra has an MFA from Miami University, as well as an M.Ed. in Montessori Education from Xavier University.

Learn more at [www.SandraGross.net](http://www.SandraGross.net).

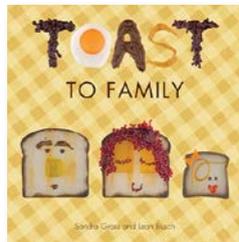
Leah has an MFA from the Art Institute of Chicago.

Learn more at [www.LeahBusch.com](http://www.LeahBusch.com).



All images are handmade using Bullseye™ glass at Brazee Street Studios in Cincinnati, Ohio.

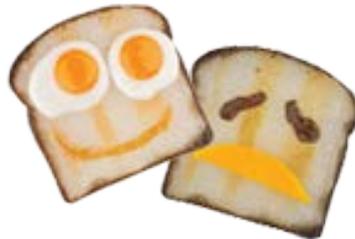
## TOAST TO FAMILY



ISBN 978-1-936669-18-9 \* \$7.99

“The fact that the compositions are made entirely of colored glass is impressive, and the novelty of a toast family is a lot of fun in itself.”

- Publishers Weekly

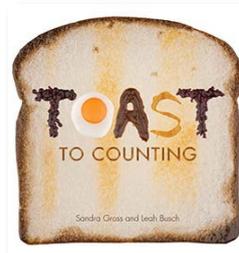


## TOAST TO FEELINGS



ISBN 978-1-936669-17-2 \* \$7.99

## TOAST TO COUNTING



ISBN 978-1-936669-09-7 \* \$7.99

“A happy and deliciously clever little board book that introduces babies to counting, cooking and friendship all at the same time. The toast, eggs, butter and jelly in the photographs are made of glass and have a tactile appeal.”

- Karen Young, My Daily Find, San Fernando, CA

# And for Middle-Grade Readers...

Indie  
Excellence Book  
Awards Finalist



## TITO'S INFERNO: DESCENT INTO TITANMART

By Dr. John Hutton



FICTION (middle-grades and up)  
244 PAGES, 6 X 9  
TRADE PAPER, \$9.99  
ISBN 9781936669035

Imagine: Dante's Inferno, set in a small town big box store. Eleven-year-old Tito Skaggs thinks he's on just another lame summer car trip to Nature World™. A detour to polluted Sanguine Lake proves him wrong, as his parents are swept away by its newest tenant: TitanMart. Guided by a mysterious red haired girl and a polite yet hulking figment—his Virgil—concocted in a hotel bathroom, he must rescue his parents, braving aisles packed with traps, henchmen clerks, and the wicked Gourdon, all doing the bidding of The Manager in a plot larger and more evil than he could have imagined.

### About the Author

Dr. John Hutton is a pediatrician and children's bookstore owner. He attended the writing workshops in Iowa City and Squaw Valley, CA. A veteran of many summer car trips, he lives with his family in Cincinnati, Ohio.

“In this middle-grade fantasy novel, an 11-year-old boy descends into a consumerist hell to save his parents, himself and the world...a smart, fun read.”

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# Awards and Reviews

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