

ISABELLE'S LIST



HEIRLOOM BOOKS

“A good book is the purest
essence of a human soul.”
—Thomas Carlyle

ISABELLE'S LIST

INTRO

It's been three years since starting Isabelle's List, and it was the spark to creating my own educational company, Beyond ABC. Isabelle's List will continue to be a curated list of children's literature with a new focus:

heirloom books.

While there are thousands of incredible books children will know and love, Isabelle's List will feature a curated few that are intended to be enjoyed now and for generations to come.



ISABELLE'S LIST

HAVE YOU EXPERIENCED THE *magic?*

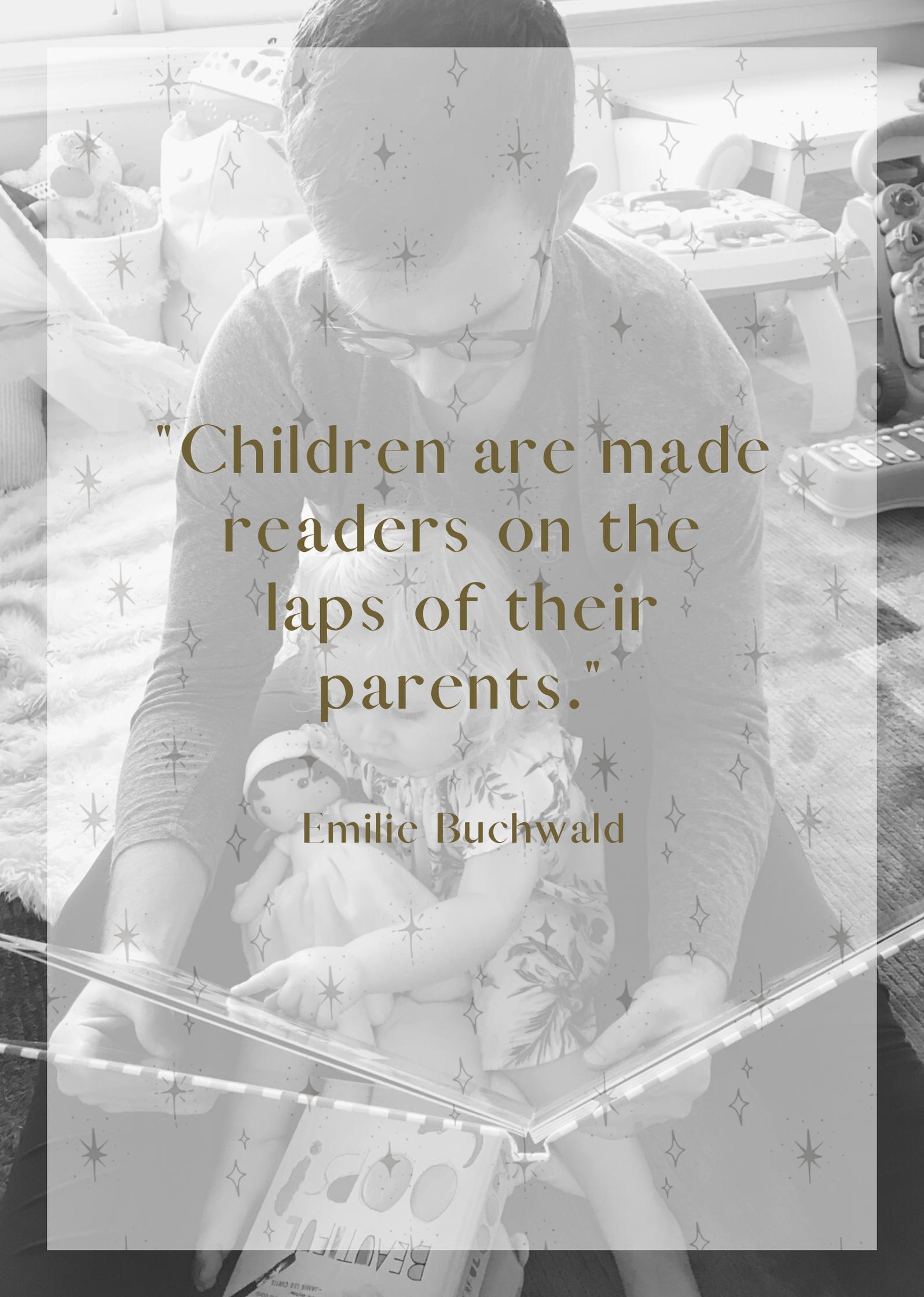
I believe something very magical can happen when a good book is read, especially when that moment is shared with a little one.

The most important magical moment is the bonding that occurs when reading together. Babies undergo immense brain development, growth, and neuron pruning in the first two years of life. The brain, social, emotional, and cognitive development of infants depends on a loving bond or attachment with a primary caregiver, usually a parent.

You have the influential role of loving nurture in a child's emotional, social, and cognitive development. Reading with a child is one of the easiest ways to nurture this development! Parenting is, therefore, more important than we could ever have imagined.

Isabelle, how do you feel when we read to you?

"It feels like kind, gentle; kind to people. I feel happier, joyful, good inside. Feels magical in my body. Reading helps me."



"Children are made
readers on the
laps of their
parents."

Emilie Buchwald

ISABELLE'S LIST

QUALITY

The best children's books capture imaginations, foster a love of reading, and stay with readers long past childhood.

There's a variety of questions that I explore when selecting books for Isabelle's List:

Are the illustrations beautiful and captivating? Is there an illustration so alluring that I feel compelled to cut it out and have it framed?

Do the pictures leave an impression just as much or even more than the words?

Is the theme one I want to remember or teach children? Does the message, words, prose, or rhyme reveal a message that exudes grace, kindness, or other positive virtues?

Do the pictures and words invoke our imagination? Transport us to a magical world?

Do we feel better after reading it? Does it invoke wonder and awe? Does the message evolve and change us for the better?

Do we want to read it over and over again? Does it reveal another meaning each time it's read?

Do I feel compelled to share it? Want to give it to others as a gift?

“There are perhaps no days of our childhood we lived so fully as those we spent with a favorite book.”

–Marcel Proust





DEAR LITTLE ONE

Written by Nina Laden
Illustrated by Melissa Castrillon

Three of the books featured
in this issue are by
Nina Laden.
These lyrical books are so
beautifully written.

Dear Little One is a letter to a
child from Mother Nature.
She encourages children to
explore our natural world
and to be grateful for the
nature that surrounds them.

The accompaniment of
Melissa Castrillon's artwork
makes each page a visual
treasure.

Nina takes us through the
inspiration behind this most
recent book of hers on her
website [HERE](#).



Visit oceans and lakes
faraway and near.



IF I HAD A LITTLE DREAM

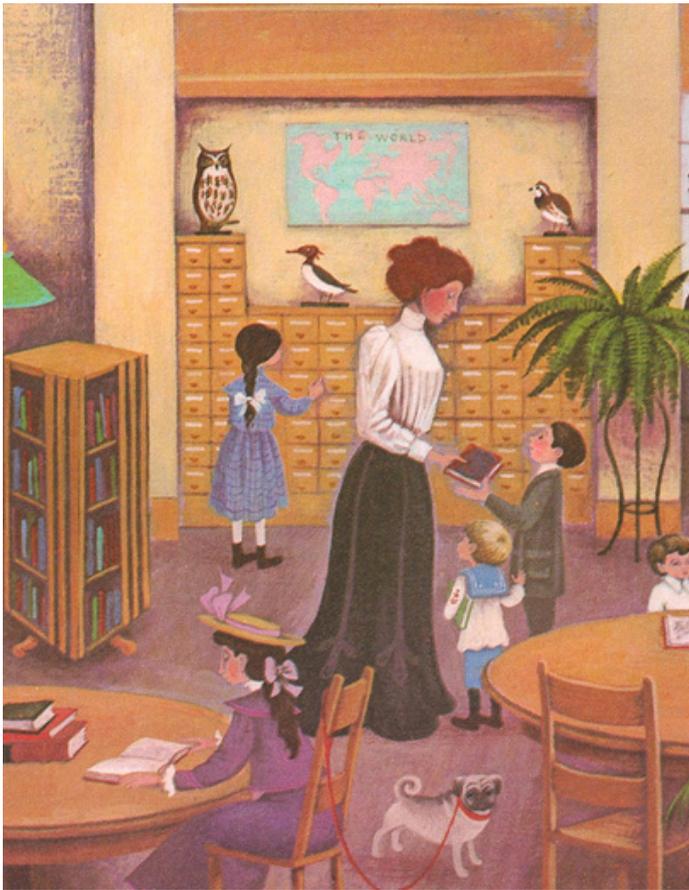
Written by Nina Laden

Illustrated by Melissa Castrillon

I'll never forget the first time I read *If I Had a Little Dream*.

Isabelle was a newborn when I found this book at Interabang Books in Dallas, an indie bookstore that has the most wonderful curated childrens' books selection. I was captured by the sweet words and beautiful pictures of this book. Having experienced fertility issues first-hand, it was the last page of this book that pulled at my heartstrings and landed a permanent place in our library.





MISS RUMPHIUS

Written & Illustrated
by Barbara Cooney

"You must do something to make the world more beautiful," is a message from this book that I took both literally and metaphorically. I applied it to my life personally and as a mother.

I remember the summer after we read *Miss Rumphius*, I planted lupine and native flowers all over our family's property in Door County. This book continually inspires me to help my community be more "beautiful" through connection, kindness, and support. The messages from *Miss Rumphius* help our family focus on joy, love, and beauty that is part of every day.

And Barbara Cooney as an artist -- I swoon over.





It is not putting up walls.
It is about building a dream.

YOU ARE A BEAUTIFUL BEGINNING

Written by Nina Laden
Illustrated by Kelsey
Garrity-Riley

Nina's lyrical storytelling in this book is a celebration of self-love and encourages readers old and young to discover their endless potential.

I find a hidden depth in the simplicity of the words, and Kelsey's magical pictures are inviting and inspirational.





ANGELINA TRACEY

I am passionate about children reading. As a former Reading teacher, curriculum developer, Reading Specialist, and now mother, I wanted to create a way of sharing the love of reading with young ones with you.

Reading with children, especially those between the ages of 0-5 years, impacts their emotional, social, and cognitive development in pivotal ways.

May you enjoy reading with little ones, in whatever capacity that may be for you. I have had the mentality as a teacher and mother, "A Better Me, a Better 'Her.'"



Isabelle's List

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