The selection of picture books is a combination of classics and interesting contemporary authors and illustrators. Some of the stories have entertained several generations already. The older illustrations and colors appeal also to younger parents as retro chic. Contemporary illustrators and authors create experimental, fresh and color-saturated reading experiences.

The books were chosen by approximately 35 Finnish children librarians around the country, who voted for their favourites. A compiled list of 10 title was made from the long list of individual favourites. The final list represents both official languages in Finland, Finnish and Swedish as well as the indigenous culture of Sami in northern part of the country.

1. Tove Jansson
   Vem ska trösta Knnyttet? [Who will comfort Toffle?]
   WSOY, 1960 • Translations: Finnish, English

   Toffle is a lonely and fearful little creature, who doesn't want be alone anymore. So he goes off to find a friend. His journey is full of amazement, beautiful colours and scary bogeymen.

2. Mauri Kunnas • Tarja Kunnas
   Koiramäki-sarja [Doghill series]:
   Koiramäen talossa [The Doghill farm]
   Koiramäen lapsen kaupungissa [Doghill kids go to town]
   Koiramäen talvi [Winter in Doghill]
   Otava (joint ed.), 1996 • Translations: English

   Cherishing, delightfully and humoristically illustrated stories about Finnish way of life and traditions in the countryside, as it was about 150-200 years ago.
3 Aino Havukainen • Sami Toivonen
Tatun ja Patun Suomi [This is Finland]
Otava, 2007 • Translations: English, Swedish
Tatu and Patu: what can you say about these guys? Their approach to finnishness is unique, hilarious and to the point. An essential survival guide to Finnish mentality.

4 Oili Tanninen
Hippi [Nugget]
Otava, 1967, 2009 • Not translated
Nugget is a small picture book about friendship and caring. The images are strong and deep enough, maybe words are not needed. The colours appear to be very retro, as the book originates from the sixties.

5 Maikki Harjanne
Minttu- ja Vanttu-kirjat [Minttu and Vanttu series]
e.g. Mintun ja Vantun matka [Minttu and Vanttu take to the sky]
WSOY, 1986 • Translations: English
Bright colours, clear illustration and familiar situations in toddler family have made these picture books favourite over generations.

6 Juha Virta • Marika Maijala, ill.
Sylvi Kepposen pitkä päivä [The long day of Sylvia Prankster]
Otava, 2008 • Not translated
Sylvia is annoyed to be the shortest in her class and wishes to grow and have longer legs. Well, one morning her wish comes true more rapid than she ever expected... The book is a joy to behold with its oblong shape.
7  Sinikka Nopola and Tiina Nopola  •  Markus Majaluoma, ill.
   **Rauhallinen Erkki [The calm Eric]**
   Tammi, 2001  •  Translations: Swedish

   Eric is peaceful and calm. Too calm a child, his parents think. A brisk Lilly moves next door, is it possible for Eric to make friends with a rascal? Somehow Eric depicts the Finnish native character and mentality perfectly.

8  Kristiina Louhi
   **Tomppa-kirjat [Tomppa series]**
   *e.g. Missä Tomppa? [Where’s Tomppa?]*
   Tammi, 2008  •  Translations: Swedish, Danish, Dutch

   Every day life and situations in toddler family: spending the night at Granma’s or wanting something REAL bad.

9  Tove Appelgren  •  Tittamari Marttinen, ill.
   **Vesta-Linneas svartaste tanke [Vesta-Linnea down in the dumps]**
   Tammi, 2008  •  Translations: Finnish

   The ups and downs of a big family.

10 Annukka Aikio and Samuli Aikio  •  Mika Launis, ill.
    **Tyttö joka muuttui kultaiseksi koskeloksi [The girl who transformed into a goosanser]**
    WSOY (2nd ed.), 2010  •  Translations: Norwegian

   A story from Sami indigenous people in Lapland.
Titi has wet her bed again… Her mother is not happy, the children in her neighbourhood go looking for her, find her, tie a rope with three frogs around her waist… That night, Bibi Rikiki the frog-shaped monster enters Titi’s bedroom and tries to put on her the mask that will steal her dreams. Titi is so scared that she wets her bed and the whole room, and the monster disappears in the water. Simple, lively text and colourful, expressive illustrations by an author and an illustrator from Togo. Text in French and in Ewe, spoken in Benin, Togo, Ivory Coast and Ghana. Dozens of children's books in different African languages in the collection Contes des quatre vents (Tales from the four winds).

What a pleasure it is to ride on Uncle’s motorbike... But the fumes it gives off are so bad for the environment! One of the titles in the collection “Enfant et santé” (Child and Health): small picture books using a story happening in children's daily life, to give information on health issues.