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### Child Development and Children's Books

Developmental nourishing and character building are key aspects of what children's books aim to provide. From a very young age, reading to children stimulates cognitive development and creativity. Children's novels can be found in many varieties and for all ages, each adapting to the child's current state. Two children's books that support the child's development in their own way are "Last Stop on Market Street" by Matt De La Peña and "It's My Birthday" by Helen Oxenbury.

Matt De La Peña's "Last Stop on Market Street" goes through the adventure of a little boy[,] and his grandma on the bus ride home. The book may seem like a simple bus conversation between a grandson and his grandmother, however to a child it teaches them about the world. The questions CJ asks his grandmother about taking the bus, such as "How come we always gotta go here after church?", [,"] or[,] when he sees two older boys with headphones and wishes he had a pair, [it's, delete] all [depict] realistic thoughts children CJ's age have about their surroundings. Children question every little thing and often find themselves wanting materialistic things, although Matt De La Peña makes sure to ground CJ utilizing his grandmother to remind him of the smallest things in his life that do matter. "Last Stop on Market Street" develops the importance of valuing the world and what it provides us with; the book aims to connect with children around the ages of five to seven, cultivating a lifelong appreciation of the world.

Unlike “The Last Stop on Market Street”, “It’s My Birthday” by Helen Oxenbury aims to target the attention of younger children, around the ages of one to three. “It’s My Birthday” shares the story of a little boy who is building a cake for his birthday, using the help of different animals. The main principle Oxenbury is building is the notion of what a birthday is and how the child interprets their birthday. “It’s My Birthday” targets a younger age group which changes the direction of the story, now we see the animals come to life and help the little boy with ingredients for the cake. A child seeing this book would see no problem with the animals helping the child because at this state everything is animated, their imagination is much more open than that of an older child. Not only is the child’s environment animated, but the words are associated with sounds and pictures, which helps the child develop emotional intelligence and stimulate the brain. Oxenbury encourages growth through “Its My Birthday” allowing children to learn about this important aspect of their lives.

In conclusion, both “Last Stop on Market Street” and “It’s My Birthday” are books that play a vital role in children’s development, exposing the child to different topics and life lessons. Children’s books provide many different ways that a child can learn and build on their creativity and culture, they’re an critical outlet for self expression and growth.