The shortlists for the 2018 CLEL Bell Picture Book Awards for Early Literacy were announced December 12, 2017.

Twenty five books, five each in the categories Read, Write, Sing, Talk, and Play, were chosen by the 2018 Selection Committee from eligible titles on the nominations lists.

The shortlist titles are:

**READ**
- *Give Me Back My Book!* by Travis Foster and Ethan Long
- *Chicken Story Time* by Sandy Asher; illustrated by Mark Fearing
- *The Library Book* by Tom Chapin; illustrated by Chuck Groenink
- *You Can Read* by Helaine Becker; illustrated by Mark Hoffmann

**TALK**
- *City Moon* by Rachael Cole; illustrated by Blanca Gomez
- *You Know What?* by Carol Gordon Ekster; illustrated by Nynke Talsma
- *Love You Too* by Alastair Heim; illustrated by Alisa Coburn
- *Say Zoop!* by Herve Tullet
- *Different? Same!* by Heather Tekavec; illustrated by Pippa Curnick

**SING**
- *Twinkle, Twinkle, ABC: A Mixed-Up, Mashed-Up Melody* by Barney Saltzberg; illustrated by Fred Benaglia
- *Motor Goose: Rhymes that Go!* by Rebecca Colby; illustrated by Jef Kaminsky
- *Singing in the Rain* based on the song by Arthur Freed and Nacio Herb Brown; illustrated by Tim Hopgood
- *Spunky Little Monkey* by Bill Martin Jr. and Michael Sampson; illustrated by Brian Won
- *Bumpety, Dunkety, Thumpety-Thunk!* by K. L. Going; illustrated by Simone Shin

**WRITE**
- *The Carpenter* by Bruna Barros
- *Little Plane Learns to Write* by Stephen Savage
● **Away** by Emil Sher; illustrated by Quin Leng
● **Niko Draws a Feeling** by Bob Raczka; illustrated by Simone Shin
● **Sam & Eva** by Debbie Ridpath Ohi

**PLAY**
● **Fort-Building Time** by Megan Wagner Lloyd; illustrated by Abigail Halpin
● **Sam Sorts** by Marthe Jocelyn
● **When the Snow Falls** by Linda Booth Sweeney; illustrated by Jana Christy
● **There's a Bug on My Book!** by John Himmelman
● **Things to Do With Dad** by Sam Zuppardi