

BIZZY THE CHICKEN

A Character-Driven SEL Picture Book Series

Created by: Jennifer Burkdoll

Category: Picture Books (Ages 4–8)

Tone: Humorous, warm, emotionally safe

Positioning: Commercial heart + literary care

1. SERIES HOOK (At-a-Glance)

Bizzy the Chicken is a character-forward picture book series that helps young children build real-life social-emotional skills through humor, warmth, and repeatable strategies—without shame, scolding, or didactic instruction.

At the center is Bizzy, an energetic, well-meaning hen who wants to do everything at once, and Patience, her calm, older friend who models how slowing down, pausing, and choosing can make life feel more manageable.

This is SEL told through story, not lessons—designed to be as enjoyable for storytime as it is useful for classrooms.

2. BOOK 1 OVERVIEW

Bizzy the Chicken

Word Count: ~900 words

Age Range: 4–8

Core Skill: Focus & pacing

Big Idea: I can slow down and do one thing at a time.

Summary:

Bizzy wakes up ready to tackle a very busy day on the farm—lay eggs, fix her nest, help the chicks, plan a picnic, and more. But as she tries to do everything at once, her feathers fluff, her heart races, and her day turns into a feathery mess. With gentle support from her friend Patience, Bizzy learns to pause, slow down, and finish one thing at a time—discovering that calm helps her feel capable, not less busy.

The story uses repetition, visual pacing, and character contrast to model focus in a way young children can immediately understand and practice.

3. THE CHARACTERS

Bizzy

An energetic, curious hen with a big heart and even bigger enthusiasm. Bizzy is capable and eager—but easily overwhelmed when she rushes ahead. She represents the child who wants to do everything *now*.

Patience

A calm, older hen who serves as Bizzy's emotional anchor. Patience is not a teacher or authority figure; she models steadiness, kindness, and quiet confidence. Her role is to show—not tell—that slowing down is a skill anyone can practice.

Together, they embody action and reflection—two forces every child is learning to balance.

4. SERIES VISION & GROWTH

The *Bizzy & Patience* series is intentionally sequenced to grow with children's developmental needs:

- **Book 1:** Focus & pacing — slowing down
- **Book 2:** Responsibility — finishing tasks and cleaning up
- **Book 3:** Self-regulation — breathing and choosing behavior
- **Book 4:** Digital citizenship — kindness and care in shared digital spaces
- **Book 5:** Civic engagement — caring for shared community spaces

Each book builds on the last, reinforcing the idea that skills are practiced over time—not mastered overnight.

5. TONE & APPROACH

- Humor-forward and character-led
- Emotionally safe (no shame, no correction)
- Story-first, skill-second
- Accessible for both home and classroom read-alouds

Visual storytelling plays a central role: busy pages mirror overwhelm, while open space reflects calm and regulation.

6. COMPARABLE TITLES

The series will appeal to readers of humorous, heart-forward picture books such as: - *The Couch Potato* (Jory John) - *The Smart Cookie* (Jory John) - *I Don't Want to Be a Frog* (Dev Petty) - *Bad Dog* (Mike Boldt)

Bizzy the Chicken differentiates itself by pairing a standout character with a repeatable, child-accessible strategy that supports executive function and SEL.

7. ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Jennifer Burkdoll creates children's stories that honor big feelings while empowering young readers with practical, gentle tools. She grew up helping in her mother's elementary classroom, where her mother taught fifth grade and later served as an elementary school counselor. Jennifer is the parent of two grown children, an involved aunt, holds a bachelor's degree from the University of Washington, and is currently pursuing a master's degree in business leadership at Louisiana State University.

Her work reflects a long-term vision: building emotionally safe stories that support families, classrooms, and communities.

8. RIGHTS & STATUS

- **Status:** Complete manuscript available upon request
 - **Illustrations:** Character art developed; illustrator TBD / open
 - **Rights:** All rights available
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9. WHY THIS SERIES

Children today are busy, overstimulated, and asked to manage complex feelings early. *Bizzy the Chicken* meets them where they are—offering reassurance that they are capable, supported, and learning.

This series is designed not just to be read, but to be returned to—again and again—as children grow.
