

Baby Love

Presenter Tip Sheet

About This Storytime

There is no such thing as too much “baby love” or too many snuggles, hugs, and kisses! Because bonding with parents or other primary caregivers is vital to a baby’s development, we shine a light on the special love between them in this storytime.

Books

For books to share in this storytime, pick three from the list below, or choose other board books or picture books in your collection that reflect the theme and are developmentally appropriate for babies and young toddlers. Always share your longest book first. For your second, choose a participatory book that engages the child or both the caregiver and child. For the third and last story, share a book told through the use of a flannel board or magnetic board, or use a prop or other visual. The examples provided in the storytime program fit these guidelines. If most children are restless and you feel the program is too long for that day, skip the last story and concentrate on the rhymes and songs.

Book Suggestions:

- *A You’re Adorable*, by Martha Alexander (Candlewick, 2011)
- *All of Baby, Nose to Toes*, by Victoria Adler (Dial, 2011)
- *Baby Cakes*, by Karma Wilson (Little Simon, 2006)
- *Baby, I Love You*, by Karma Wilson (Little Simon, 2009)
- *Daddy Calls Me Doodlebug*, by J.D. Lester (Robin Corey Books, 2011)
- *Daddy Hugs*, by Karen Katz (Little Simon, 2007)
- *Grandma Calls Me Gigglepie*, by J.D. Lester (Robin Corey Books, 2011)
- *The I Love You Book*, by Todd Parr (Little Brown, 2009)
- *I Love You Through and Through*, by Bernadette Rossetti-Shustak (Scholastic, 2005)
- *Mommy Calls Me Monkeypants*, by J.D. Lester (Robin Corey Books, 2011)
- *Mommy Hugs*, by Karen Katz (Little Simon, 2007)
- *Only You*, by Robin Cruise (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2007)

- *Peek-a-Boo, I Love You!* by Sandra Magsamen (Little, Brown Kids, 2009)
- *Peek-a-Love*, by Salina Yoon (Little Simon, 2010)
- *Whooo Loves You?* by Sandra Magsamen (Little, Brown Kids, 2011)
- *You Are My Little Cupcake*, by Amy Sklansky (Little, Brown Kids, 2011)

Songs

This storytime includes five songs. The same opening and closing songs should be used each week if you are holding a series of storytime programs. Always provide movements or motions to accompany each song, but keep these simple, such as the caregiver rocking the baby back and forth, bouncing the baby in time to the music, or clapping the baby’s hands. Using recorded music during the storytime is fine, although it’s best to sing the songs with a live voice, or sing along with simple recordings, so that very young children can hear the words and the sounds making up each word. Recorded music is often sung too fast for this purpose. For your reference or to play during storytime, The Very Ready Reading Program includes a CD of songs recorded at an appropriate tempo. Track numbers for each recording are provided in the songlist below and on the storytime program card.

Songs for This Storytime:

- Opening Song: “If You’re Happy to Be Here” (sung to the tune of “If You’re Happy and You Know It”) 🎧 22 🎵 23
- “Baby, Baby, Smile at Me” (sung to the tune of “London Bridge Is Falling Down”) 🎧 4
- “Baby Love Song” (sung to the tune of “Take Me Out to the Ballgame”) 🎧 5
- “Say, Say, Oh Baby” (sung to the tune of “Say, Say, Oh Playmate”) 🎧 41
- Closing Song: “The More We Get Together” 🎧 28 🎵 29

Rhymes

This storytime includes three rhymes, with movements to accompany them. Caregivers perform the movements with the child, depending on the child’s ability. For babies, the caregiver can move the child’s hands, fingers, and body, or otherwise

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help the baby execute the movements. Young toddlers may be able to do the movements themselves or may need a little help. Keep in mind that children up to 24 months of age have not developed fine motor skills to the same degree as older toddlers and preschoolers; open and close motions are better than, say, putting one finger down at a time. The Very Ready Reading Program storytimes include different types of movement rhymes for variety, such as bounce/lift, finger/hand, and toe/foot rhymes.

Rhymes for This Storytime:

- “Dance, Little Baby” (bounce/lift)
- “Pat-a-Cake” (finger/hand)
- “What Babies Like to Do” (finger/hand)

Activities

This storytime includes an optional theme-related activity, to be completed after the closing song. Below are three to choose from, including at least one that is suitable for the youngest babies. The activity you choose might depend on the size or predominant age of your audience, the amount of time you have to prepare, your space or environment, and the materials needed. The activities are designed with safety and the very limited attention spans of babies and young toddlers in mind. However, always keep in mind and remind caregivers: **Any time an activity involves materials such as paint, sand, string, or small pieces, close adult supervision is required.** Although each activity has a learning aspect, the emphasis should be on fun!

Activity Suggestions:

This Is Me! For each family, provide a large piece of butcher paper that is as tall as the child. Have the caregiver lay the baby or young toddler on top of the paper and trace around the child with a crayon or marker. (Families may assist one another.) Label the paper with the child’s name and age; caregivers may draw in any features. Young toddlers may also draw with chunky crayons.

Hands and Feet. Provide some play dough or other soft, nontoxic modeling compound for each family. Have the adult shape the dough into a flat piece, or the adult can help a young toddler do this. Then place the child’s hand in the clay to make a print. Take off shoes, and do the same with a foot!

Baby’s Texture Book. Provide each family with several pieces of different types of materials, such as cloth, aluminum foil, corduroy, wax paper, bubble wrap, burlap, sandpaper, and so on. Also give each family pieces of brightly colored cardstock (red, green, yellow, blue) cut slightly larger than the size of each material item. One item can be glued onto each piece of cardstock. Punch two holes on one side of each piece of cardstock, and tie all the pages together with two strings or ribbons. As families are making the book, adults can use words such as soft, rough, bumpy, and cold to describe the materials while the child touches them.

Early Literacy Tips

Promote the **7 Days • 7 Ways** principles with parents and caregivers by emphasizing the three early literacy tips found in the yellow boxes in the storytime program.