

BABIES

READ

In English

1, 2, 3 to the Zoo (2019) by Eric Carle. A colorful, oversized reissue of an Eric Carle original. Numbers and pictures only.

Dog's Colorful Day (2001) by Emma Dodd. A bright, interactive book for teaching numbers and colors.

Peek-a-Zoo! (2014) by Nina Laden. Read the clue, recite the rhyme, giggle, and repeat! Simple and interactive story to engage both babies and toddlers.

Where's Spot? (2003) by Eric Hill. A classic baby mystery is a vibrant new edition.

Bilingual/Spanish

Los besitos (2003) by Anne Gutman. Animal kisses with simple vocabulary. (Spanish; also available in English)

Song/Bounce: You Can Hear

Sing to the tune of "She'll Be Coming 'Round the Mountain." Bounce babies when you make the animal sounds; add any animals that fit your theme.

You can hear the lions roaring at the zoo, ROAR ROAR!
 You can hear the lions roaring at the zoo, ROAR ROAR!
 You can hear the lions roaring, you can hear the lions roaring,
 You can hear the lions roaring at the zoo, ROAR ROAR!

Song/Movement: Zoo Animal Songs

Caregivers and babies move like zoo animals. To the tune of "If You're Happy and You Know It."

If you want to be a tiger, growl out loud.	(grrrr rrrrrr)
If you want to be a tiger, growl out loud.	(grrrr rrrrrr)
If you want to be a tiger, really want to be a tiger,	
If you want to be a tiger, growl out loud.	(grrrr rrrrrr)

Verses:

If you want to be an elephant, swing your trunk.	(swing, swing)
If you want to be a crocodile, go snap, snap.	(snap, snap)
If you want to be a monkey, jump up high.	(jump, jump)
If you want to be a giraffe, stretch up tall.	(stretch stretch)
If you want to be a hippo, stomp your feet.	(stomp, stomp)

STORYTIME TIP:

For a toddler adaptation of *Dog's Colorful Day* (2001), give each toddler a printed dog bone to put in a stuffed dog's bowl.

EARLY LITERACY TIP:

Sing songs and rhymes more than once to reinforce words, concepts, and music.

English/Spanish

jungle = la jungla
 tiger = el tigre
 elephant = el elefante
 crocodile = el cocodrilo
 giraffe = la jirafa
 hippopotamus = el hipopótamo

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Song/Movement: Una Pequeña Mariposa

Blow bubbles during this song and have children catch the “butterflies.”

Una pequeña, dos pequeñas, tres pequeñas mariposas
 Cuatro pequeñas, cinco pequeñas, seis pequeñas mariposas
 Siete pequeña, ocho pequeñas, nueve pequeñas mariposas
 Diez mariposas por doquier
 Las tengo (clap)
 Las tengo (clap)
 Las tengo conmigo
 Tengo las mariposas!

Spanish/English

las mariposas =
butterflies

PLAY / TAKE HOME**Butterfly Discovery Bottles**

Make animal discovery bottles by filling small plastic bottles (airplane carry-on size) halfway with water and adding a few drops of food coloring. Fill the rest of the way with baby oil, leaving a bit of room at the top. Add butterfly sequins, filler sequins, and shake. Pass out bottles to caregivers and ask open-ended questions. “Where is the butterfly?/¿Dónde está la mariposa?” “What is it doing?/¿Qué está haciendo?”

Tips for Talking to Babies

Give caregivers Tips for Talking to Babies (or project it and let them take pictures with their phones).

PRINTABLE

TIPS FOR TALKING TO BABIES

WHAT CAN YOU TALK TO A BABY ABOUT?

- Describe what you are doing throughout the day (“I’m putting your arms in your sleeves and pulling your shirt over your belly”).
- Ask open-ended questions (“What do you see/hear?”).
- Sing nursery rhymes and read books together every day.
- Talk about the books you read and the songs you sing.
- Describe other family members and what they are doing.
- Incorporate touch and name body parts. (“I’m tickling your nose!”)
- Talk about household pets and what they are doing.
- Look out the window together and describe the weather.
- Point to birds, plants, and trees outside and describe them.

HOW DO YOU TALK TO A BABY WHO CANNOT TALK BACK?

- Give baby your full attention and minimize distractions. If baby coos, babbles, or kicks back at you, you will want to respond.
- Elaborate on the sounds baby makes. For example, “Yes, do you see a dog? Is it a happy dog? What does a dog say? Where is he going?”
- Make eye contact and exaggerate your facial expressions.
- Reflect back baby’s emotions.
- Minimize baby talk and use real words.
- Babies like quiet time too, so if baby stops responding or looks tired, save the chatting for another time.

ARE YOU BILINGUAL? GREAT!

Bilingual brains have an edge. Speaking two languages benefits brain development by giving kids a larger vocabulary, more flexible problem-solving skills, and higher cognitive ability. Be sure to read and speak to your babies in both languages at home!