

Baby's Here!

The 2023 CLEL Bell Award Book for PLAY



by Jessica Young, illustrated by Genevieve Godbout
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This sweet story walks the reader through different activities to do with baby and gives the reader the opportunity to do them with the book itself. Children learn about the world—including words and their meanings—through play, and from waving hello to kissing goodnight, every page of this story is gentle and interactive.

Activity Ideas for *Baby's Here!*:

- As you read the book with your child, point out all the babies on the first page and talk about their skin color. "Look, this baby has brown skin," or "This baby has black skin like you!" are perfect examples of what to say when starting to talk about race with your baby. Babies can start noticing race as young as 3 months so it is never too early (or too late) to begin having these conversations. Making connections between books and the world around us is an essential part of being a reader.
- Follow the book's prompt to play! As you read, wave hello, count each toe, and tickle your child's feet. Go slow and do these prompts repeatedly. Older children can practice these playful activities on a favorite stuffed friend or doll. The more enjoyable the reading experience is, the more books children will want to listen to, and the more books they listen to, the more early literacy skills they will learn.
- One page in our story shows a baby singing and clapping. Sing a familiar song like "Twinkle Twinkle Little Star" and clap to the rhythm. Now try it while clapping your feet! You can do this with popular music as well! Love that new Miley Cyrus song or some classic rock? Sharing your favorite music with your child will not only help build a kiddo with good taste, but any lyrics will allow children to grow their language skills. In songs, each syllable has a separate note, which helps children hear that words can be broken up into separate syllables. This awareness will help them sound out words one part at a time when they read.

The CLEL Bell Picture Book Awards are given to books that provide excellent support of early literacy development in young children. For more information and for other activity sheets, visit <http://www.clel.org> and select the CLEL Bell Awards tab.



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