

The
Early Years Count
Literacy
Connection



**Babies Love
Animals**

Susanne König

Infant/Toddler edition

Overview of Book

The black and white pencil sketches of animals in this wordless book are designed to appeal to infants' developing visual sense. The illustrations of animal families are simply drawn and exude loving care. The pages are designed as panels so that the book can be placed for infants to see as they move through their day.

Vocabulary

Books are a rich source of words new to children. *Babies Love Animals* is a wordless book so you can choose which animals to name and what other features of the illustrations to highlight:

Animal names
Animal body parts (tails, tusks, ears, etc)
Action words (Sleeping, Smiling)

Use age-appropriate definitions and refer to the illustrations to help children understand each word's meaning.

Use the new words throughout the day, reminding children, "That's a word from our story!"

**Connecting with
HighScope Curriculum**

COR Advantage 1.5

Language, Literacy
and Communication
Item Q
(*Book enjoyment and
knowledge*)

Social and Emotional
Development
Item D
(*Emotions*)

Science and
Technology
Item BB
(*Observing and
classifying*)

Reading Tips

This book is designed for flexible placement and invites you to be right there with the children as they gaze at the illustrations. Be on the floor during tummy time and pay attention to where baby's gaze lingers. Notice out loud what the baby is seeing, for example, 'you are looking at the kitty cat family. Do you see 3 kitties together? The 2 grown up cats are holding their baby kitty carefully...' Follow the baby's lead and engage in back and forth 'conversations' as the infant looks across the pages. If you are holding an infant in your lap, turn the pages slowly as the infant looks at each page. Invite older infants to turn the pages. The pages are thick and easy to turn so follow the infant's lead in possibly 'reading' quickly!

Throughout the Routine

Refer to the book throughout the day and use new vocabulary words in meaningful ways. Active engagement with the story helps the content come alive.

For Group Time with Materials, bring out animal families. Talk about any of the animals that are similar to those in the book. Talk about how those grown up animals care for their little ones.

For Music and Movement Group Time put on some fun music and invite the infants and toddlers to move like the animals in the book.

Around the Room

Highlight the book's content and build on the children's excitement in a variety of locations.

Put animal families throughout the room, accessible to the infants and toddlers.

Leave the book out, standing up with pages unfolded. The infants and toddlers could enjoy moving around the book to see the animals from different 'angles.'

Display at the infants' and toddlers' viewpoint other pictures or photographs of animal families.

Active Engagement

Reading with infants is all about relationship, connection, and words.

Use a questioning tone as you point to some of the illustrations or read some of the words.

Draw babies in to the story with your comments, questions, and pauses.

Infants may not be able to answer questions yet, but they will quickly appreciate the 'back and forths' with books.

For more information on how to use books and stories with children to enhance your curriculum, contact
The Family Connection:

website—
www.famconn.org

Facebook—
[@famconnsjc](https://www.facebook.com/famconnsjc)

phone—
574-237-9740

@ Home

Since many children in our county will have this book at home, use it to further the home-school connection. In your daily contact—in person or by text, email or other notes home—encourage families to share *Babies Love Animals* with their children. Here's a sample message you can send:

Books are a wonderful source of inspiration, language and information. They can be enjoyed in so many ways, including during tummy time, lap time, sitting up, or even moving around. *Babies Love Animals* is designed with this flexibility in mind! The illustrations are gentle and invite conversations about how grown-ups love and care for their little ones. Pay attention to the illustrations that most intrigue your child and talk about what you see. Your child will love the time together right along with the new words and ideas you will inspire.