

# The Early Years Count **Literacy** Connection



## **Baby! Talk!**

Written and Illustrated by  
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*Infant/Toddler edition*  
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### **Overview of Book**

Photos display babies and adults communicating in various ways, with the repeating refrain "I talk to you and you talk to me." Photos are in gentle black and white with contrasting black and white and color patterns on opposite pages. Photos and design are eye-catching and draw the baby's attention, offering many opportunities for "back and forth" conversation.

Genre: Non-fiction

### **Vocabulary**

Books are a rich source of words new to children. Here are some words from *Baby! Talk!* to introduce in your classroom:

talk	cuddle
play	sing
yawn	sleepy
happy	

Each time you read the book, highlight 2 or 3 words.

Use age-appropriate definitions and/or 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**

Social and Emotional  
Development  
Item D  
(Emotions)

Social and Emotional  
Development  
Item E  
(Building Relationships  
with adults)

Language, Literacy  
and Communication  
Item P  
(Reading)

### **Reading Tips**

This gentle book invites one on one time, exploring the relationships between babies and the special people in their lives. As you go through the book, talk about the routine events that are occurring and the emotions displayed by the babies and the adults. Relate those events and emotions to the children's lives.

Three readings are recommended to familiarize children with the story. During each reading the adult can introduce new vocabulary words, pose open-ended questions, and engage children in activities that make the story "come alive."

### **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.

Repeat the phrase, "I talk to you and you talk to me," as you encourage communication throughout the day.

Refer back to the photos in the book as the babies experience their day—sleeping, playing, reading, cuddling.

Use a sing-song tone as you narrate the babies' activities and experiences throughout the day.

### **Around the Room**

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

Display black and white photos of the children and special adults in their lives and talk with the children about who is in the photo and what they are doing and feeling.

Put *Baby! Talk!* on display in the book area so the children can easily find it on their own.

### **Open-ended Questions**

Enhance active engagement and early critical thinking skills by asking open-ended questions. These "wondering aloud" questions support children's developing focus and attention as they encourage young children's capacity to make connections and see possibilities.

Here are some questions you might ask for *Baby! Talk!*:

What is making this baby laugh?

What song does the baby like to sing?

What does the baby see in the book?

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

website—  
[www.famconn.org](http://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 *Baby! Talk!* with their children. Here's a sample message you can send:

*Baby! Talk!* provides a great opportunity for identifying and labeling emotions with your baby. The photos in this book also are a helpful reminder of the opportunities for "back and forths" that occur naturally all day. Nothing can replace these beautiful face-to-face interactions that babies require and so enjoy. When you find that you and your baby are doing a routine that's shown in the book, you might say, "We're \_\_\_\_\_, just like the baby in your book."