

The
Early Years Count
Literacy
Connection



**Baby's First Words
(Sassy)**

Infant/Toddler edition
September 2018

Overview of Book

Have fun learning new vocabulary in a variety of colorful scenes! Farm, travel, forest, home and other settings set the stage for labeling, storytelling and discovery.

Genre: Concept (Vocabulary)

Vocabulary

Books are a rich source of words new to children. *Baby's First Words* provides many to introduce in your classroom:

Farm and forest animal names

Vehicles and transportation words

Food item words

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

Creative Arts
Item AA
(Pretend)

Science and
Technology
Item BB
(Observing and
classifying)

Language, Literacy
and Communication
Item L
(Speaking)

Reading Tips

Read the book in no particular order. Focus on the pages the children like best and read until their interest fades.

Open the book to any of the scenes, or begin on the page a child selects. Use the bright picture to comment on the scene, or begin a story. For example, "Oh! A picnic! Look! The cat and dog went to the park for a picnic. They brought the checker cloth to lay the food on." Stay on the page as long as the children are interested.

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.

At **Choice Time**, label items children are using and refer to the book. Lay out a checkered blanket and re-create the picnic scene. Have the book open to that page and have it available for the children.

While **Outside**, observe and label materials, vehicles or animals seen. Bring the book outside and refer to it as needed.

Around the Room

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

Use the book as a guide and label all materials noticed in the book.

Create photo-categories of various familiar materials used by the children and post where they can see them. Comment about how the items go together.

Put *Baby's First Words* 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 *this book*:

- What do you think is in the barn?
- What is the ladybug doing at the picnic?
- Where is the airplane going?
- What toys do you have in your room at home?

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

website—
www.famconn.org

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@ 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's First Words* with their children. Here's a sample message you can send:

Have a fun adventure each time you and your child cuddle together, identify words and tell stories about the pictures in *Baby's First Words*. Whatever page your child opens to or wants to see is where you can start (and stay at as long as your child is interested!). Make up stories about the scene and imagine you and your child together at the picnic, on the farm or taking a trip on the train! Point to objects and say the word as you tell your story. This will help reinforce the new vocabulary—from farm and forest animal names to vehicles and transportation words and more.