

Selecting Books for A Hospital Based Newborn Book Gifting Program

Nancy Edgar
Shanda LaRamee-Jones



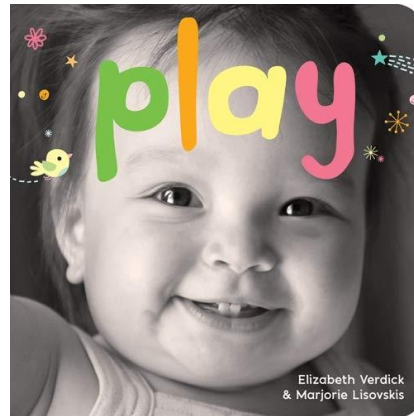
About Read to Me

Read to Me is a non-profit, hospital-based, province-wide early reading promotion program

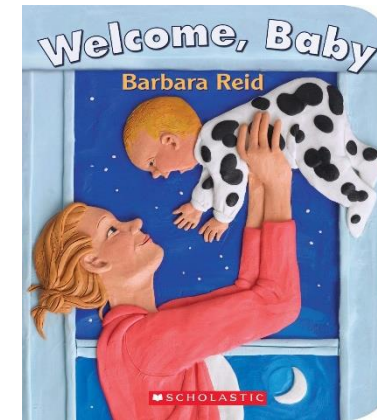
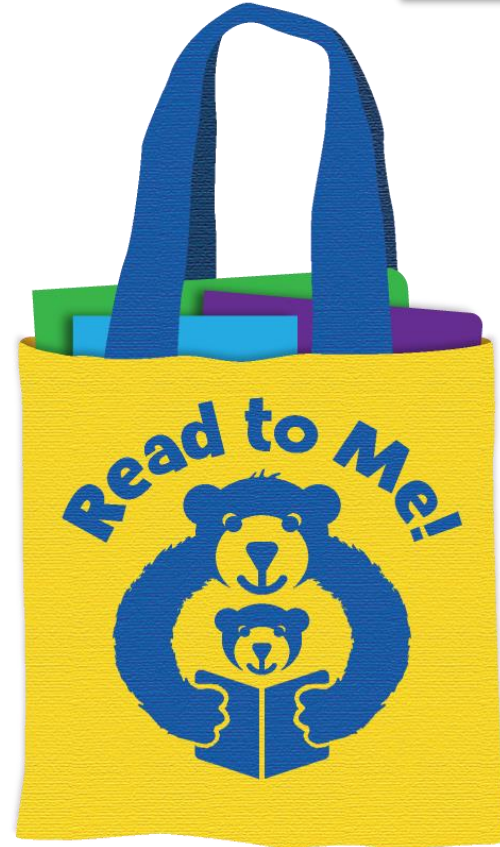
We give a free bag of books and reading resources to every baby born in Nova Scotia within 24 hours of birth to motivate and empower every family in Nova Scotia to read to their baby from birth



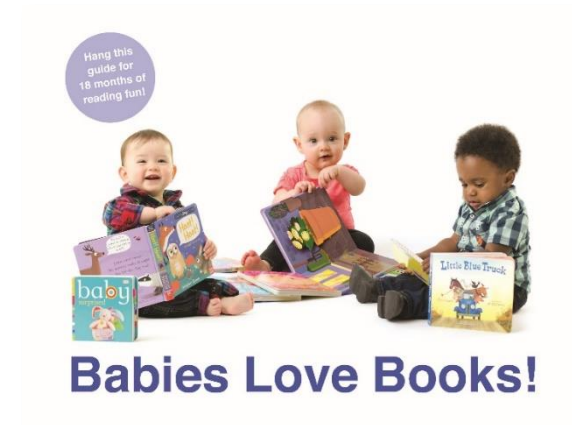
The Read to Me bag contains:



2016-2018 title



2016-2018 title



How the bag is delivered



Books in Additional Languages

Bags are available in 5 languages:
English, Arabic, French, Chinese, Mi'kmaq

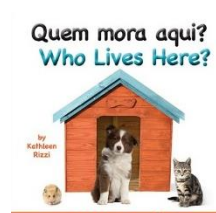
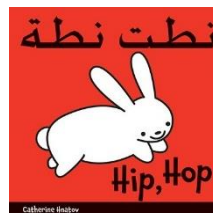
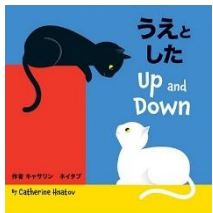
We also provide individual books in:

Bengali
Dari
Farsi
Gaelic

Hindi
Korean
Nepali
Polish

Portuguese
Russian
Somali
Spanish

Tagalog
Turkish
Urdu
Vietnamese



The Importance of Selecting Books

The book gift may entice caregivers to try shared book reading, which may then lead to the development of a regular book reading routine, especially when these incidental attempts are positive experiences for both the caregiver and the child.

Bondt, M. D., Willenberg, I. A., & Bus, A. G. (2020). Do Book Giveaway Programs Promote the Home Literacy Environment and Children's Literacy-Related Behavior and Skills? *Review of Educational Research, 90*(3), 3



Our Book Selection process

- New books are selected every two years
- We do a call-out to publishers to send books for review
- A committee of experts in the field of early childhood education is selected
- Past committee members have included early childhood educators, library programmers, speech language pathologists and pediatricians



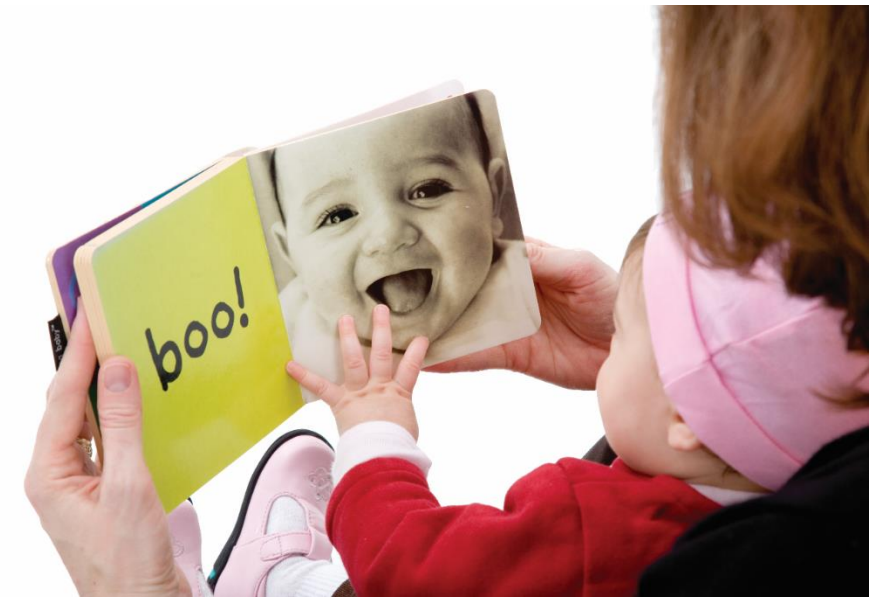
First Steps

- Program staff eliminate books that do not align with our broad criteria
- Publishers send review copies from the short list to the committee
- Committee members receive the short list of books, along with a comment sheet and our selection criteria
- Book selection committee meets to discuss books
- The list is narrowed to 4 titles, with preferred pairings indicated



Book criteria for the Selection Committee

- Books should be appropriate for newborns, babies and toddlers up to the age of two
- Durable board format that can be held, chewed and explored without ripping
- Be visually stimulating with bright colours, strong contrast and bold images
- Feature strong rhythm, rhyme and repetition in the language
- Feature a richness of language that is easy to read aloud



Selected books should also ...

- feature photos or illustrations of babies, with a focus on faces
- represent diversity
- depict and encourage loving interaction between parent and child
- be Canadian or locally published when possible

In addition to our main criteria,
our committee also considers:

- research on infant development
- the overall quality of the writing, illustration and production of the books



Other things to consider ...

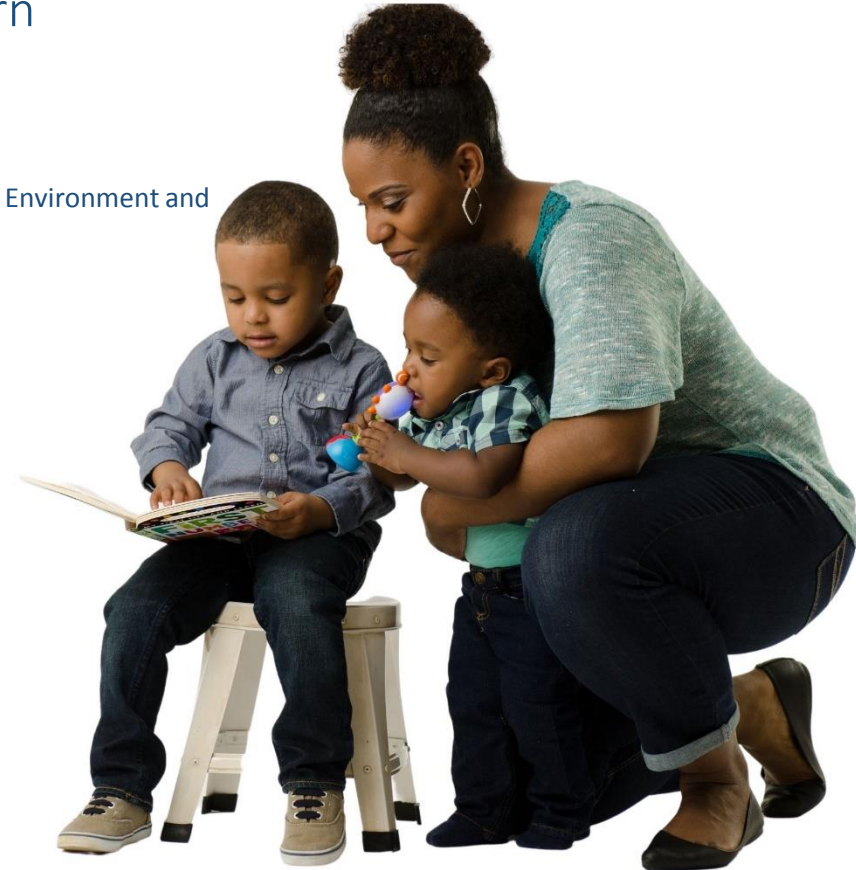
- For some families, the books in the Read to Me bag may be the only books in the home
- Some families do not have a reading culture
- Parents may not know *how* to read to a baby
- One book may not satisfy all criteria, but the two books together should satisfy as much of the criteria as possible



The right books matter ...

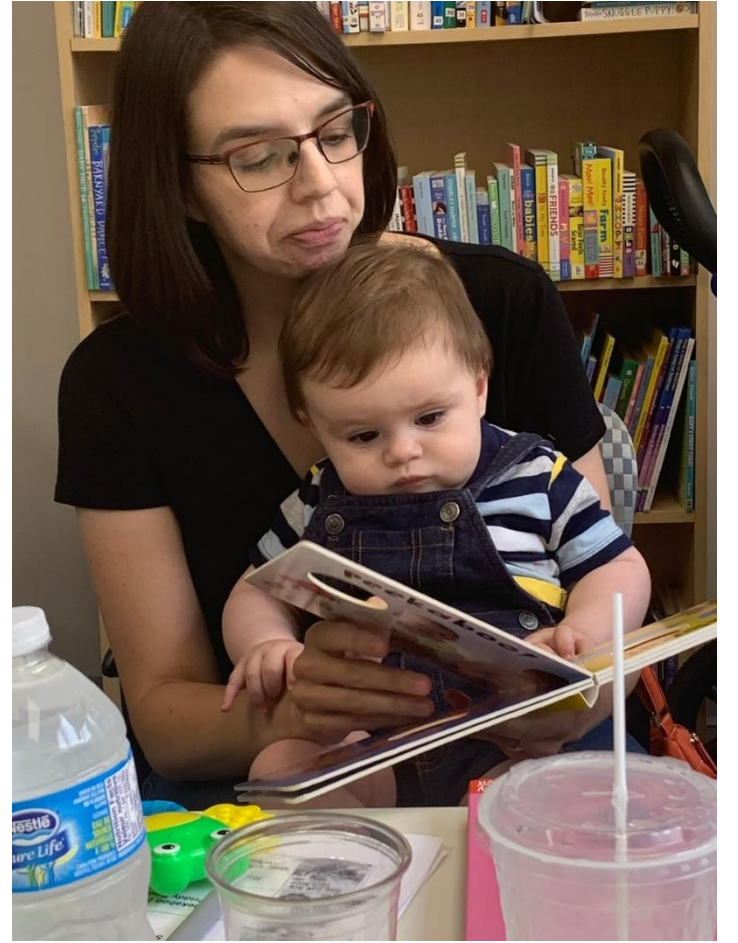
The early initiation of book reading promoted by book giveaway programs generates a “snowball effect” (Raikes et al., 2006), resulting in more advanced early language and literacy skills that presumably further increase children’s interest in book reading, which may in turn encourage parents to continue with book reading routines.

Bondt, M. D., Willenberg, I. A., & Bus, A. G. (2020). Do Book Giveaway Programs Promote the Home Literacy Environment and Children’s Literacy-Related Behavior and Skills? *Review of Educational Research, 90*(3), 349-375.



2020-2022 Book Selection Committee



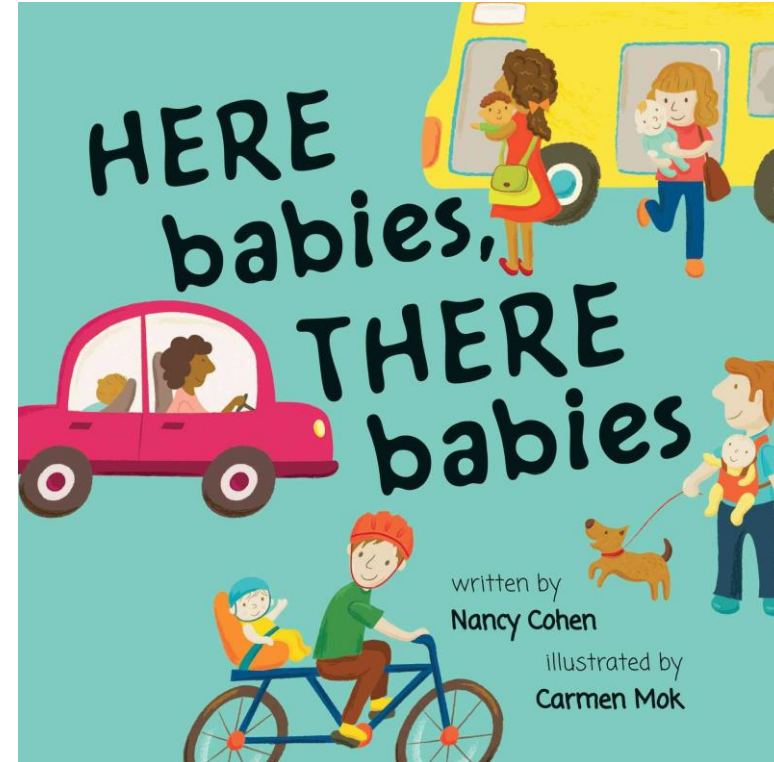
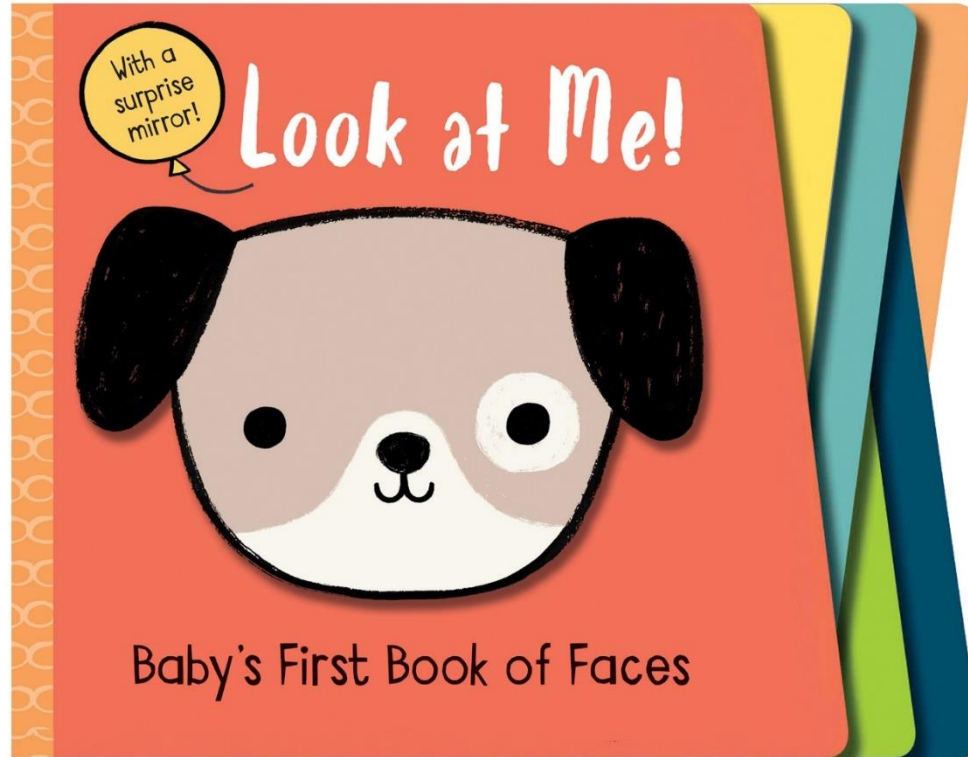


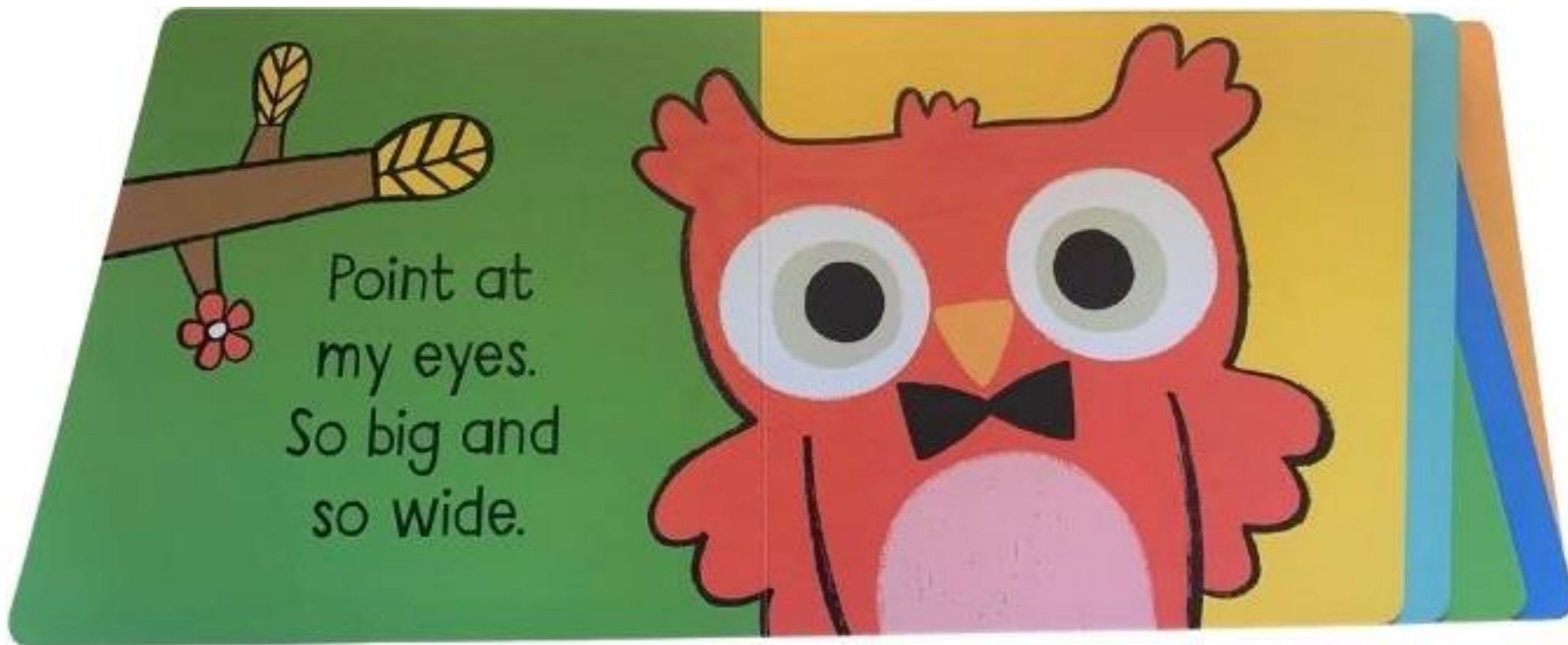
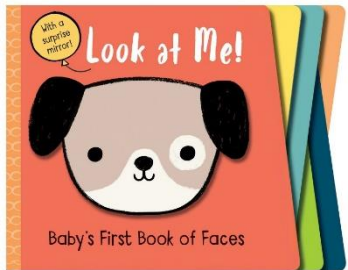
Final Steps to selecting the book titles

- The program manager investigates availability and pricing for 10,000 copies of each book for two years
- The final pairing of books for the bag is selected and ordered
- Books arrive in quarterly annual shipments to our warehouse
- When books from the previous period are gone, we start giving families the new books in the bag

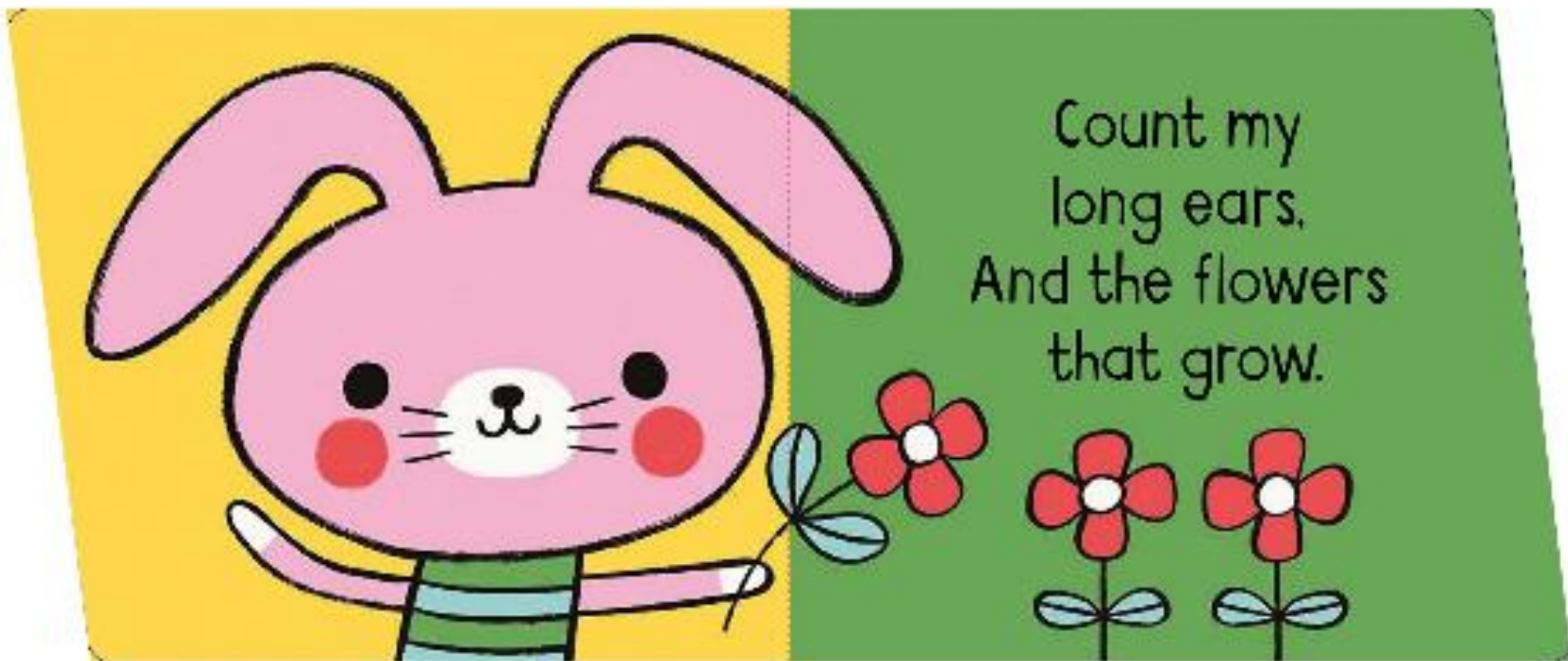
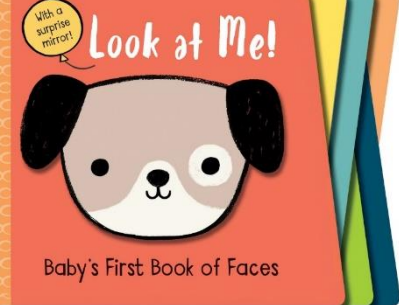


2018-2020 Titles

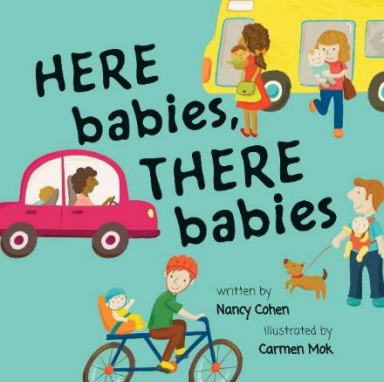




Interior of *Look at Me! Baby's First Book of Faces*

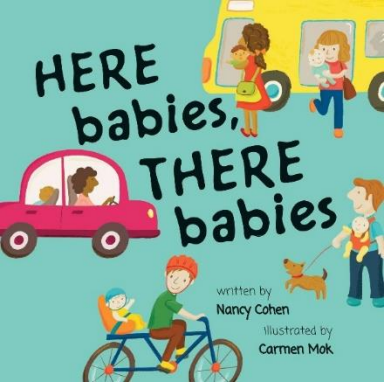


Interior of *Look at Me! Baby's First Book of Faces*



Here babies, there babies
See them everywhere babies
Up babies, down babies
All around the town babies.

Interiors of *Here Babies, There Babies*



HERE babies, THERE babies

written by
Nancy Cohen
illustrated by
Carmen Mok



Baby getting tired, baby starts to cry
Come on, tired baby, it's time to wave bye-bye.



Baby going home, it's time for baby's nap.
First a little cuddle, and a book on Daddy's lap.

Baby's gone to bed
Baby's sound asleep



And for a little while
No one hears a peep.

Shhh....

But
Before long...



Babies are awake, babies want to play



Babies have so much to learn, they're busy
every day!

Is giving two books enough to get parents started with reading?

- A recent meta analysis provided no decisive evidence for the assumption that receiving multiple books is essential as a reminder to caregivers of the importance of book reading (Bondt et al., 2020)
- Books are given in a health care setting, which can offer additional weight
- The two books selected work together to appeal to the various stages of development that a baby will go through in the first year.
- Our bag contains resources to extend and enhance caregivers ability to select more books that fit their baby's changing ages and stages in the first years of life.
- Parents are encouraged to register at the public library where they can access more books and baby programs.

Ages and Stages



Additional Resources

7 months



Babies love libraries!

Even the youngest baby can enjoy going to the library. Library staff will be happy to help you find books that are just right for your baby's age and stage of development.

Many libraries have regular story times and playgroups.

These free programs often feature songs and rhymes, finger plays and tips for reading with your child. It's also a great place to meet other families. You may both make new friends!

A lot of libraries have fun play spaces where your baby can crawl around and socialize with other babies. And don't forget, you can borrow books, movies, magazines and more — all for free, for the whole family. Sign up for your baby's library card and give them a lifetime of free books!

Books...



Your baby...

- May try to move towards toys or books
- Recognizes common words
- Likes to look at their reflection in a mirror

Try this...

- Have a special bag to carry books to the library
- Look for a baby program at your local library or community centre
- Sit in front of a mirror with your baby and point out the parts of their face

Wake up feet, wake up feet, wake up feet and wiggle, wiggle, wiggle
 ...Wake up feet, wake up feet, wake up and wiggle in the morning!

Hang this guide for 18 months of reading fun!



Babies Love Books!

Read To Me!



50 Best Books for Babies

12 Months +



Moo, Baa, La La La!



Babies Love Opposites



Peep Through My Colors



First 100 Words



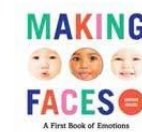
Where is Baby's Birthday Cake?



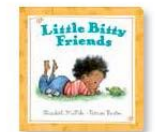
Baby's First 123



Baby Touch Your Nose!



Making Faces; A First Book of Emotions



Little Bitty Friends



Now is a great time to set up a bedtime reading routine for your baby



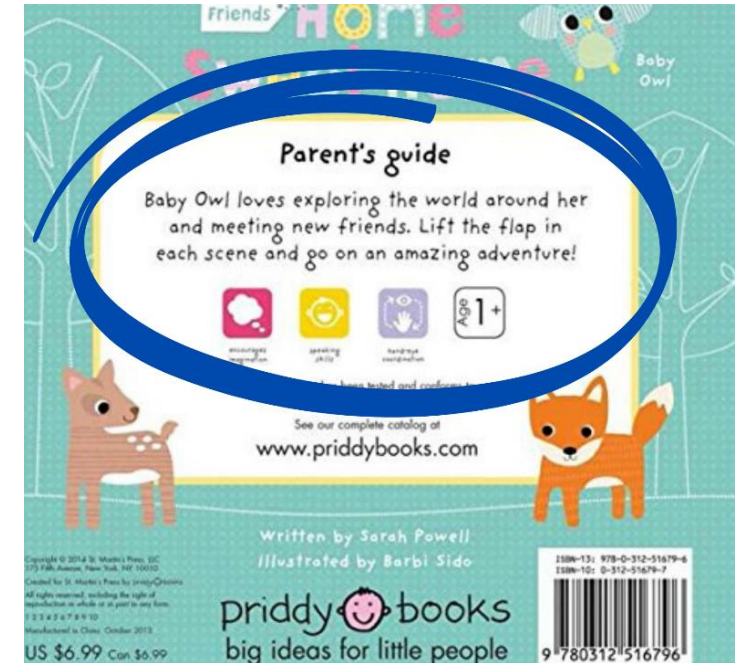
Babies love to look at books featuring animals and hearing the sounds they make



Lift-the-flap books are fun for babies to explore

Ages and Stages

While it used to be that books for babies were lumped together in one large category of birth to five years, we are starting to see publishers provide books and reading information to match the right book with key developmental stages.





The books we received through the IWK 20 months ago have been well loved by my boy! ❤️ Fantastic program!

Love · Reply · Message · 14w

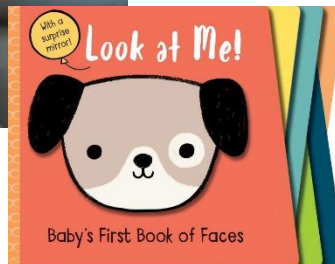


My daughter loves that book too 😊 even more so a year later

Love · Reply · Message · 14w



Feedback from Families





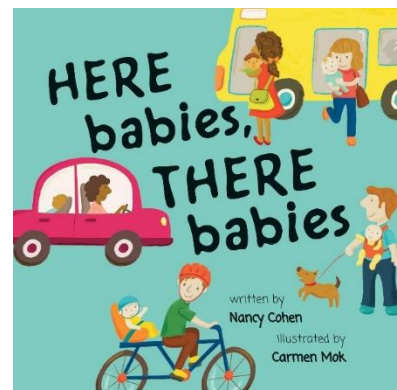
My son always wants here babies everywhere babies book at night ❤️❤️❤️
Love · Reply · Message · 14w

My two year old loves here babies, there babies and my nine year old used to love baby boo. Fantastic program.
Love · Reply · Message · 13w · Edited

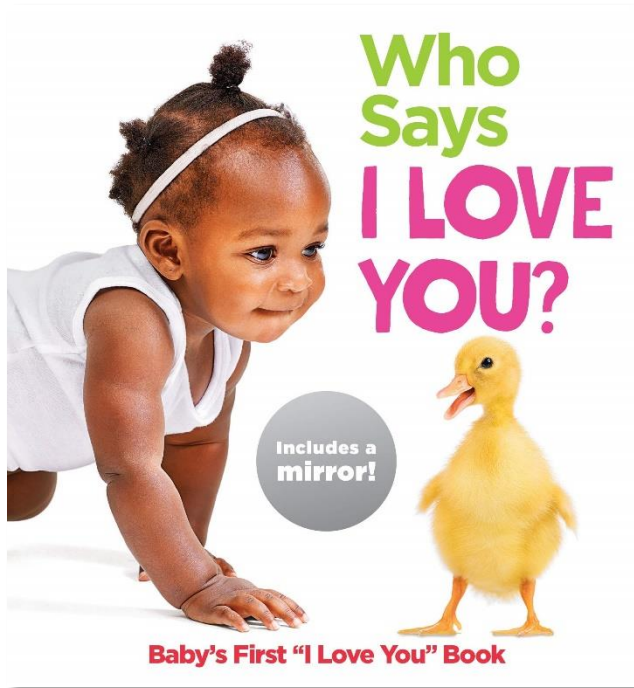
My daughter was born the beginning of March and "here babies, there babies" is one of her all time favourite books!!
Love · Reply · Message · 14w

"Here Babies There Babies" was my daughters first favourite book. She has loved books ever since! Such a great program!
Love · Reply · Message · 14w

Feedback from Families



The 2020-2022 Books



Questions or Comments

It is a great thing to start life
with a small number
of really good books
which are your very own

-Arthur Conan Doyle