

Play is the most powerful way babies learn.

Every time you pick up babies, cuddle them, sing to them or read to them they are learning about language.

By sharing this book and play activities with babies they will have the opportunity to:

- Develop a love of stories.
- Increase their language development.
- Enjoy traditional stories and nursery rhymes.

We hope these activities will provide you with a starting point for fun play with babies.

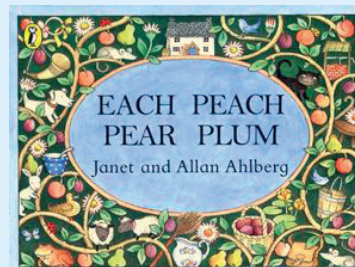
Engaging with Language and Literacy



Babies will naturally learn about language through everyday interactions and modelling.

- Read the book with an animated voice. Stop reading if the baby loses interest. Come back to the book later or try another.
- Use descriptive language as you share the story, e.g. 'Can you see Tom Thumb? He's hiding up in the tree. Can you see Mother Hubbard in her yellow dress?'
- Watch babies' enjoyment of the story. They will let you know when to turn the page.
- Play 'I Spy' with the babies. Say 'I spy your feet' and then tickle the baby's feet. Do the same with other body parts.
- Babies love looking at faces, especially other babies. Make a book with photos of all the babies in the room. On each page write 'I spy (child's name)'.
- Hide objects under a small blanket and let the baby look for them. Use language from the book when you talk to the baby about the object that is hiding.
- Give babies toys that may surprise them.

Babies like to 'talk' with you even though they don't speak words yet.



Each Peach Pear Plum

by Allan and Janet Ahlberg

Notes

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Play is the most powerful way babies and toddlers learn.

Every time you play with a toddler, cuddle them, sing to them or read to them they are learning about language.

By sharing this book and play experiences with toddlers they will have the opportunity to:

- Enjoy traditional stories and nursery rhymes.
- Increase their vocabulary and experience rhyming words.
- Develop their imagination and understandings of their world through make believe play.

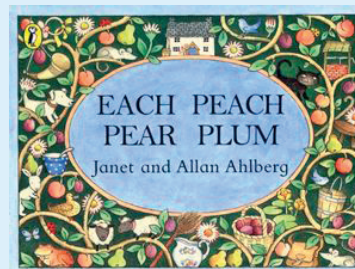
We hope these activities will provide you with a starting point for fun play with toddlers.

Engaging with Language and Literacy

Reading is about making meaning. When we read to children they begin to make sense of the pictures and print they see in books.



- Spend some time exploring the cover of the book. Can the children find familiar objects?
- Make a book with photos of all the children in the room. On each page write 'I spy (child's name)'. When you read the book encourage the children to wave and say 'bye bye' as you turn the page.
- Introduce the children to simple fairytales, especially those in the book.
- Read other books by the same author.
- Toddlers will enjoy the rhyme of this story. Add nonsense rhymes as you read it e.g. 'I spy Tom Thumb... ho ho hum, rum tum tum.'
- Talk about the pictures that interest the children.
- Use descriptive language as you share the story, e.g. 'Where is Tom Thumb? He's hiding up in the tree. Why is he hiding in the tree? Can you see Mother Hubbard? What is she wearing?'



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Other books to try:

- Nursery Rhymes (includes CD) by Debi Gliori
- Lucy Cousins' Nursery Rhymes by Lucy Cousins
- Orchard Book of Nursery Rhymes
- ABC for Kids Hey Diddle Diddle Nursery Rhyme Time (includes CD) by Jeannette Rowe
- Rhymes, Riddles and Nonsense by Dr Seuss
- Bedtime Rhymes by Penguin Books

Rhymes and songs:

Jack and Jill

Jack and Jill went up the hill,
To fetch a pail of water,
Jack fell down and broke his crown,
And Jill came tumbling after.

Up Jack got and home he ran,
As fast as he could caper.
There his mother bound his head,
With vinegar and brown paper.

Little Bo Peep

Little Bo Peep has lost her sheep
And can't tell where to find them.
Leave them alone,
And they'll come home,
Wagging their tails behind them.

Notes List any other books, rhymes or activities the children have enjoyed.

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