



I Love You Spot by Eric Hill

Little Spot is very loved. His mother is busy making him a special treat while Spot is busy making some special things himself. This love heart shaped board book is a sweet story with bright illustrations sure to delight any baby.



Key Message for Parents

The best learning happens in nurturing relationships

By having nurturing and calm environments for their children to learn in and role model positive behaviours, children will begin to develop trust and respect for those they have close relationships with.

- Young children who are in loving, caring relationships have a lower stress response than children in less secure relationships.
- Reading, singing and creating things together with people who care for them can allow children to truly explore and learn in a safe way.
- By simply snuggling up to your child and reading a book or two, you are creating a wonderful, nurturing bond with your child.

Learning Outcomes

Outcome 5: Children are effective communicators

Babies will begin to understand how symbols and pattern systems work by reading books with you. Babies will become familiar with the concept of books and start to understand that they are used to convey messages. Babies will also learn to express their ideas and make meaning using a variety of sounds, gestures and tones.

A baby's first form of communication will be babbling, cooing and smiling. As their language and motor skills develop older babies will introduce gestures, facial expressions and body language in addition to saying words. Sharing stories regularly will support babies to develop language and communication skills as books offer a wide range of words and themes to explore.

Themes within this story

- Love
- Family
- Feelings and emotions

Find booklists, tip sheets, nursery rhymes and activity and learning time sheets @

thelittlebigbookclub.com.au     



Welcome

Ask carers to write nametags for themselves and their babies. Welcome everyone, introduce yourself, remind adults to turn their mobile phones off and that there will be time for adults to chat after the story and songs.

Welcome Song (or your preferred song)

Have the words available as a handout or written on a board or butcher's paper for the adults to read and join in.

Good Morning

Good morning to you

Good morning to you

Good morning everybody

and welcome to you!

Song

I love you

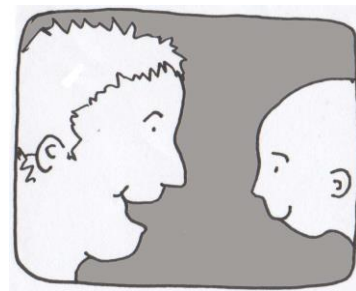
I love you,

You love me,

We're a happy family,

With a great big hug and a kiss from me to you,

Won't you say you love me too?



Encourage parents and carers to face baby when singing

Singing simple and repetitive songs is a perfect activity to share with babies. Encourage parents to sing facing their baby so that baby can watch their mouth move as they sing and talk. If appropriate, invite parents to do actions during the song to create connections for babies. Repetition of songs and words will initiate the beginning of understanding language in a fun and meaningful way.

Some songs for babies include:

- Cuddly Koala
- Open Shut Them
- Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star
- Incy Wincy Spider





Before Reading

Ensure babies and parents are comfortable before starting this story. While the book is quite detailed for younger babies there are still many items on each page that can be pointed out and talked about. You might like to spend a few minutes sharing ideas with parents on different ways they can share books and stories with their baby. For example, reading the words all the way through or exploring the pictures and making up the story using their own words or even simply slowly matching images to their baby's own experiences.

During Reading

Spot is very active during this book and both Spot and his mother are busy making things for one another. Parents can talk to their babies about what is happening in the story as well as extending on familiar parts of it with their child. Encourage parents to explain what is happening in the pictures by emphasizing familiar words, pausing and being patient – allowing their baby to absorb the images in front of them, gently point to images as they talk about them.

“Oh look, Spot is drawing”

“Now Spot is going outside”

“Look at the colourful flowers, I can see 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 yellow flowers in Spots garden”.

Slowly progress through the story, giving parents time to talk with their baby. If you have multiple copies of this book, allow parents enough time to talk about what is happening on each page with their baby

After Reading

Spot and his mother both gifted the other with handmade items. Remind parents that at such a young age, babies appreciate time spent with them much more than anything else. Creating a lasting bond with their child is the best gift they can give.

Activity Time

Paper Plate Flowers

Make your own garden of flowers.

What you will need:

- paper plates
- scissors
- water based paints
- paint brushes/fingers
- smock
- green cardboard/paper
- glue



What to do:

1. Cut out a small slice from the edge of a paper plate every 3cms to create the petals
2. Paint the flowers using brushes/fingers/sponges etc.
3. Cut a thin strip of green cardboard/paper and two leaves to add to the stem
4. Once dry glue the stems, leaves and flower head onto a large piece of paper

TIP: You can make the petals any size you want by varying the size of the cuts to the edge of the paper plate.



Extension ideas

- Pick some flowers from your garden and press/dry them. Once dried you can glue them to a card for a personalized handmade gift.
- Bake some cookies and cut them with a heart shaped cookie cutter

Goodbye

Conclude the session with some suggestions of books that parents might want to share with their children. The Little Big Book Club suggests the following books to support learning in this area.

- ***Cuddle Time*** by Libby Gleeson and Julie Vivas
- ***Nest*** by Jorey Hurley
- ***Hey Mum, I love you*** by Corrine Fenton
- ***Spots goes to the Park*** by Eric Hill

Goodbye Song

Depending on the size of your group, you may wish to insert each child's name in the place of 'you' as it develops a more personal relationship between yourself, the child and the family.

Sung to the tune of (*Here We Go Round the Mulberry Bush*) **or** your preferred choice.

Goodbye

This is the way we say goodbye (use a waving action)

Say goodbye, say goodbye

This is the way we say goodbye

To all our library friends (or) (to our friend.....)!

