



# Ideas for sharing *Welcome Song for Baby* with your child...

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**Welcome Song for Baby** celebrates birth and babies and the promise of new life and new possibilities. As you look through this book, you will think of many ways to share it with your infant, toddler or preschooler. Here are a few ideas to get you started.

- Open the book to any page. Read the words aloud. Talk to your child about the photos of babies and caregivers. You might
    - point out the baby's eyes, nose, ears, mouth
    - count the number of fingers and/or toes in each photograph
    - explain what you think the baby might be feeling or thinking
    - tell about the dreams and hopes of the parents and caregivers for the future of their babies.
- Go through the items above and focus on **your child** and **you** instead of the babies and caregivers in the photographs. For example, describe what **your** baby or toddler looks like. Name colors, count toes, tell about your dreams for her future.
- Tell your child stories about the day he was born and birth stories for other family members.
  - Help your baby turn the pages. Allow your toddler to choose the pages to read and talk about. Let her turn the pages on her own.
  - Pretend your baby or toddler understands every word you say! Respond to his coos, babbling, and movements as though they were words (for now, they **are** his way of "talking" to you).
  - **If you're reading this book with a child who has begun speaking:** When your child says a word or two, repeat what she said, then add a comment of your own. For example, if she points to a baby's eye and says "eye," you could say, "Yes, this baby has two dark brown eyes, just like you!" Doing this, you are teaching your child new words and how to put them together in sentences. You are also teaching your child how to take turns in a real conversation!
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*Reading with babies and toddlers REALLY means playing with books, looking at and talking about pictures and ideas in books, and learning about and enjoying the sounds of words in books.*