

## Core Skills Analysis

### Social-Emotional Development

- Ellie practiced empathy by imagining the needs and feelings of the baby dolls, enhancing her ability to understand another's perspective.
- She developed nurturing skills through caring actions like feeding and changing diapers, fostering a sense of responsibility and caregiving.
- Engaging in pretend play as a mommy supports emotional regulation and the cultivation of compassionate behavior.
- The repeated routines involved in bathing and transporting dolls help build an understanding of daily caregiving rhythms and the importance of consistent care.

### Language and Communication

- Through teaching and interacting with the dolls, Ellie likely practiced conversational language and expressive vocabulary related to caregiving and baby care.
- Role-playing various caregiving scenarios supports narrative skills by creating storylines and explaining actions.
- Using requests, commands, or soothing phrases to dolls helps develop pragmatic language skills essential for social communication.
- Ellie's engagement in pretend dialogues can enhance her listening and speaking proficiency within a meaningful context.

### Cognitive and Motor Skills

- Handling small tasks such as changing diapers and feeding dolls improves fine motor skills and hand-eye coordination.
- Problem-solving is involved when Ellie decides the sequence of care activities, developing executive function skills.
- Transporting the dolls requires planning and spatial awareness, integrating cognitive and physical coordination.
- Learning steps involved in caring routines nurtures sequential thinking and memory.

### Tips

To deepen Ellie's understanding and enjoyment of caregiving role-play, encourage her to create stories about the baby doll's day, adding challenges or emotions the baby might face, fostering problem-solving and empathy. Introduce age-appropriate books and videos about babies and caregiving to build her vocabulary with real-world context. Incorporate opportunities for group play where Ellie can collaborate and negotiate caregiving roles with peers, enhancing social skills. You might also invite Ellie to observe or assist with real-life caregiving moments safely, such as helping prepare a snack or organizing a bath time routine, to make connections between pretend and reality.

### Book Recommendations

- [Are You My Mother?](#) by P.D. Eastman: A classic picture book about a baby bird seeking its mother, encouraging understanding of family roles and attachment.
- [Baby Faces](#) by Margaret Miller: A photo book that shows a variety of baby expressions to help children recognize emotions and social cues.
- [Helping You Care for Your Baby](#) by Laura Mercer: An engaging guide designed for young children to learn basic baby care through simple explanations and pictures.

## Learning Standards

- CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.K.4: Describe familiar people, places, things, and events and, with prompting and support, provide additional detail.
- CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.1.1: Participate in collaborative conversations with diverse partners about grade 1 topics and texts with peers and adults in small and larger groups.
- CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.L.K.6: Use words and phrases acquired through conversations, reading and being read to, and responding to texts.

## Try This Next

- Create a sequencing worksheet where Ellie arranges pictures of caregiving steps such as bathing, feeding, and changing diapers in the correct order.
- Design a drawing prompt asking Ellie to illustrate a day in the life of her baby doll, including how she cares for it and what the doll might be feeling.