

Materials Needed:

- An age-appropriate board book featuring babies or baby dolls (simple pictures, few words).
- Your child's favorite baby doll.
- Optional: A small blanket or cloth for the doll.

Lesson Activities:

1. Introduction (Getting Cozy):

- Find a comfortable spot to sit together, like the floor or a comfy chair.
- Bring out the baby doll and the special book. Say something like, "Look! Here's your baby doll! And look, we have a special book about babies today! Let's read it together."

2. Story Time with Baby:

- Hold the book so your toddler can easily see the pictures.
- Read the story slowly and with lots of expression. Point to the pictures as you read the words. "Look, here is the baby! Can you point to the baby?"
- Relate the pictures back to the baby doll. "Oh, look! This baby in the book is sleeping. Shhh! Just like your baby doll can sleep."
- If your doll has similar items (bottle, bed), point them out in the book and on the doll. "See the baby's bottle? Does your baby doll have a bottle?"
- Encourage your toddler to turn the sturdy board book pages (with help if needed). Praise them for being gentle with the book.

3. Interactive Play:

- After reading (or even during), use the baby doll to act out parts of the story. "The baby in the book is yawning. Can your baby doll yawn?"
- Ask simple questions: "Where is the baby's nose? Can you show me your nose? Can you show me the baby doll's nose?"
- If you have the blanket, say, "Let's tuck the baby doll in, just like the baby in the book."

4. Wrap-up:

- Let your toddler hold the book (gently!) and perhaps "read" or babble to the baby doll.
- Give lots of praise for listening and looking at the book. "You did such a great job reading with baby doll!"
- Put the book away carefully, perhaps in a special spot.