

# LEARNING TIME

## Baby Dance

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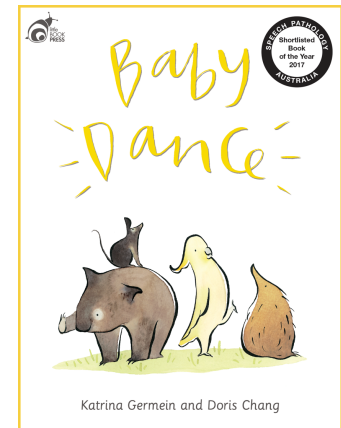
Illustrated by Doris Chang

Explore naming the body and how it moves, try some new moves, like bop and groove. Board book format perfect for baby hands to hold.

**Speech Pathology Australia Book of the Year Shortlisted Book 2017.**

Themes: Movement, Babies, Australian

**Rare and interesting words/concepts:** beat, bop, groove, sway, peep.



## Key Message for Parents | The First Five Years Last a Lifetime

- Learning about language happens through books, songs, conversations that introduce words in meaningful ways.
- Sharing books and stories builds a strong literacy foundation right from the start.
- Holding and handling books develops fine motor skills, concentration, and independent learning.
- The best learning occurs in nurturing, safe, connected experiences with caregivers.

## Australian Early Years Learning Framework | Outcome 1: Children develop their emerging autonomy, interdependence, resilience, and sense of agency.

Educators can support children's learning to be open to new challenges and discoveries

- providing a safe, predictable, and welcoming environment where the child is supported
- encouraging new experiences within the child's own level of comfort, acknowledging fears and concerns, and offering emotional support with positive language and encouragement.
- demonstrating serve and return interactions, to guide caregivers in picking up on early communication.
- helping the child to understand their body by naming the parts and things they can do.
- Sing and say words clearly, repeating and demonstrating to connect concepts to language.

## Welcome

Ask caregivers to write nametags for themselves and their children.

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!*

*You may like to introduce the book at this stage or use a song to help prepare your group and introduce the upcoming story and activities.*



## Songs

Songs slow down language and engage children to listen and engage.



### The Wheels on the the Bus

*The wheels on the bus go round and round,  
round and round, round and round.*

*The wheels on the bus go round and round, all through the town.*

*The wipers on the bus go swish, swish, swish;  
Swish, swish, swish; Swish, swish, swish.*

*The wipers on the bus go Swish, swish, swish, all through the town.*

*The babies on the bus go up and down, up and down.*

*The babies on the bus go up and down, up and down  
all through the town.*

### Before Reading

- Greet families and children warmly, ask them how they are, awaiting their responses and acknowledging them.
- Explain the format of the session, including the book you are reading, songs and activities. You may want to use a visual board to support diverse language and learning needs.
- Ask the families to sit where they can see the pictures, as you will need them to watch closely!

### During Reading

- Introduce the name of the book, author, and illustrator.
- Ask the families to join in as you find things in the book, naming the animals.
- Be intrigued and model engagement with the text, through looking interested in what they discover and check the children are following along. Suggested comments – ‘*can you smile like the cockatoo? Shall we wave hello? Let’s hide like the Echidna (Peek a Boo!)*’.

### After Reading

- Reflect on the story. *I wonder what your baby can do? Do they smile, wave, roll, crawl?*
- Allow time for the families to talk to their children. Suggest talking about their bodies and things they can do or might be learning to do. Encourage phrases like ‘you are learning’.
- All communication from baby is important and should be responded to.

### Movement milestones

#### The first year

By 8 weeks they may

- smile at you
- move both eyes together most of the time
- lift their head when lying on their tummy
- kick both legs strongly

By four months

- enjoy being played with, laugh and kick

Between 6 – 9 months

- delight in playing ‘peek-a-boo’ games

Between 9 – 12 months

- stretch up arms to be picked up
- love to be talked to and played with
- copy gestures such as coughing or waving





### Read

- Visit the Raising Literacy Australia website and find more book recommendations under Featured Stories. You can search by theme – movement, babies or Australian books
- Borrow board books from the other libraries.
- Many books are also freely available via Library subscriptions such as Libby and StoryBox Library for read aloud – making books accessible from home or when you are out and about.
- Take a book with you everywhere. Books are language tools, like a toy is a tool for play.

### Sing

- Singing slows down language so enables sounds to be heard more easily. Phonemic Awareness knowledge (sounds) is a foundation to literacy competency.
- Spotify and YouTube have a huge variety of songs. We have a Spotify Playlist ‘ Raising Literacy Australia’ – Featured Stories
- Adapt your own from well-known tunes and your own made-up words.
- Nursery Rhymes are essential pre-literacy tools for building understanding of rhyme, a foundation literacy skill.

### Talk

- Talk about different kinds of movements, like blow a kiss, wriggle your nose or tap your knees.
- Demonstrate the serve and return model of communication, where baby is acknowledged in like, with smiles and sounds to match theirs.
- Baby brains are wired for oral communication.
- Vocabulary knowledge is the biggest predictor of future literacy success.

### Play

- Use colored scarves, hankies or material to play with and play Peek a boo.
- Roll, crawl or bop around together!
- When we play we talk, when we talk we learn words. Describe everything you and baby are doing to build functional language – the words we use everyday.

## Goodbye

Conclude the session with some suggestions of books that parents might want to share with their children. Raising Literacy Australia suggests the following books to support learning in this area. If your library has copies, make them available for families to borrow or include them in your story time session.

For more stories to share, we recommend the following titles:

- **Look Baby** by *Janeen Brian and Renee Trembl*
- **My First Body** by *DK*
- **Moving your body** by *Beci Orpin*

An Activity Time for this book is available to download for FREE from our website. This is a great resource to share with families, you are welcome to print and distribute as necessary.

## Goodbye Song

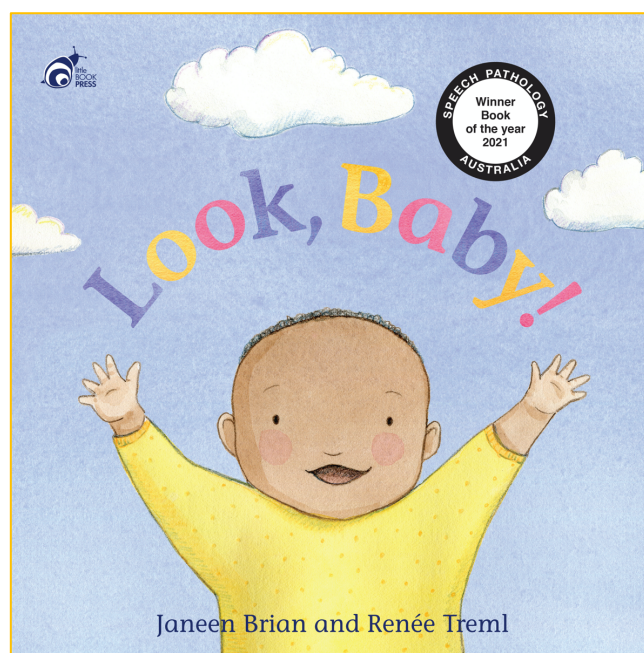
Depending on the size of your group, you may wish to insert each child's name in the place of 'you' as it develops a more personal relationship between yourself, the child and the family.

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

## Goodbye

*This is the way we say goodbye (wave) say goodbye, say goodbye*

*This is the way we say goodbye to all our library friends (or) (to our friend.....)!*



*Look Baby!* by Janeen Brian and Renee Trembl