books
for
babies

raising
literacy
AUSTRALIA

ACTIVITY TIME

Little Baby's Playtime: A Finger Wiggle Book
Sally Symes and Nick Sharratt

An interactive board book with bright, colourful illustrations that invites conversations with your little one.

Chatting and talking

You will need
• You and your baby.

How to have conversations with your baby

- Chat about what you are doing with your baby. Tell them "We are heading out to the park today, it is cold so let's make sure you have a warm hat on." Read books with them. It can feel strange having a conversation with a baby, so reading books can help! Read the words and describe the pictures to your baby.

- Have conversations with your baby. Ask questions and pause to allow them to respond. It might not be with words, but babies can respond with a smile, or by cooing and babbling.

- Make sure your baby can see your face while you are chatting. They will be watching how your mouth moves, and it won't be long before your baby starts to copy you.

- If you get stuck for ideas, sing a song. Singing is not only fun, it slows down our speech and your baby will be able to hear the parts of the words more clearly. Sing songs with simple hand actions to add meaning to what you are saying.

Your baby's development
From birth, your baby's brain will grow an amazing 80% in the first three years. Babies need to hear people talk to them about what they are seeing and experiencing, for their brains to fully develop language skills.
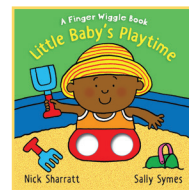Talking with your baby can feel odd when they can't speak back to you, but it is one of the most important activities you can do to help support your baby's language development.

Songs to sing
Head, Shoulders, Knees and Toes, I Can Sing A Rainbow, Five Little Speckled Frogs.

Key message
The first five years matter and last a lifetime.

Adult supervision is essential. Involve and talk with your child as much as possible.