

Birth to five: Communication and Language—Listening & Attention:

Share stories, songs and rhymes from all cultures and in babies' home languages and other languages common in communities.

You are your child's teacher:

- Get down to your child's level and face your child so they can see your mouth
- Describe what you can see and what your child is doing
- Praise your child for any sound/word they make in response to you reading the story
- Give your child time to respond
- Repeating the same story to your child brings comfort and allows for them to build vocabulary and supports their understanding

- Dear Zoo is a classic children's book about a boy who writes to the zoo for a pet.
- Reading stories together gives you and your child consistent focused time together, without distraction, to slow down and connect over an enjoyable activity.
- Your child can develop their physical skills through lifting the flaps and turning the pages.
- Collect a range of toys that match the animals in the story and let your child explore that animal as you read that page in the book.
- Gather different size boxes from around your house and role model putting the animals inside. If you have a box large enough, you can pretend to be the animal and get inside and make the different noises.
- Place the animals inside a large tray and add different sensory items for your child to explore. For example—cereal, shaving foam, jelly, water, sand
- When you re-read the story, pause for 10 seconds before the flap is lifted and give your child chance to remember what the next animal is and name what it is.

