

The New Baby

by Mercer Mayer

Soft images and familiar characters tell the story of a brother and his struggles to discover what really makes his new baby sister smile and his triumphs as he finally captures her attention.



Read

Before:

Introduce the book and tell the children a little bit about it. Follow that with a comment or question that is related to the story such as, *What would it be like to have a new baby in the family?* Encourage a discussion so the children can comment, ask questions, and express their feelings. Set the stage for listening by asking an "I wonder" statement based on the cover illustration.

- I wonder if he makes his new baby sister laugh?

During:

Encourage the children to comment on the illustrations, ask questions, and predict what will happen next in the story. Children gain confidence and a sense of achievement through being able to correctly predict how a story will end. Point out "rare words" (e.g., those words that are not commonly used in every day conversation) and help the children relate the meaning in a way that makes sense to them.

Rare Words in *The New Baby*

- wiggly: making wiggling movements
- floppy: to move limply or heavily
- cuddle: tenderly hug or nestle

After:

Discuss the story. Ask questions...

- What new person was added to his family?
- What kinds of toys did he want to share with the new baby?
- Did the new baby like all the toys and books?
- What kind of things did he do with the new baby to keep her from crying?
- What kind of things did he do with the new baby to make her happy?

Do

What Would You Do?

After reading the story, hand out the *What Would You Do?* Sheet to each child. Allow the children enough time to draw a picture of an activity, toy or book that they would do or share with a new baby. After the children illustrate their idea, dictate (in their exact words) their description of their drawing.

Extra Activity

If desired, give each child the opportunity to share their idea with the whole class.

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My Name: _____

What Would You Do?

