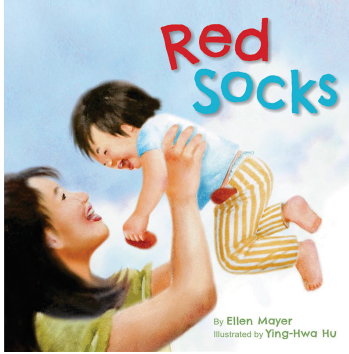


Storytime Activity Guide

Red Socks

by Ellen Mayer



Mom is doing laundry and helping her baby get dressed. Mom describes each clothing item as she dresses the baby. This book is a great model for how we can talk to young babies who aren't yet saying words.

Did you know?

Children need to **build healthy relationships** with parents, caregivers, and close friends. This includes understanding how to respect and keep boundaries, as well as express care and love for others. When you talk to your baby throughout the day and include them in your daily tasks, you are helping build a strong relationship and develop their language skills!

Talk about it!

Young children who aren't old enough to talk, or only speak a few words, benefit from hearing you talk to them. Even if your child cannot answer, asking them questions and then answering them teaches babies new vocabulary and demonstrates how conversations work. As you read, try "asking" your child the following questions:

- The baby in the book is wearing a shirt with a goldfish. What are you wearing today?
- Baby helps Mom with laundry. What chores will we do today?
- At the end, Baby goes outside to swing. What games do you play outside?

Play: (activity with no materials)

Peek-a-boo is a classic game that helps children learn about object permanence—even if we can't see something, it is still there. Find a scarf, a blanket, or a large shirt and play peek-a-boo by hiding your face and then your baby's face. Then try peek-a-boo with some of your baby's favorite toys. Help build your child's vocabulary as you ask them about their hidden toy. For example, you could ask: "Where did the [red truck / green ball] go?"

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qrcode/redsocksENG

Create!

- Materials needed:**
- 5 small, child-safe household objects or toys
 - A piece of construction paper
 - A pen or marker

Create your own fun homemade puzzle by tracing your child's favorite toys and small, safe household objects.

1. Find five small objects around your house that your child likes to play with.
2. Arrange the five objects on the piece of construction paper so that they all fit, leaving a little room in between each item. As you lay the items down, point to them and name them for your child (or have them name them if they know the words for the objects).
3. Use your pen to trace the objects.
4. Take the objects off the construction paper and line them up in a row.
5. Have your child match each object to its outline. If your child is too young to match by themselves, you can help them put the objects on the paper. Describe what each item is and what it's used for as you match them.
6. Repeat and make as many new puzzles as you can!

