

The New Baby by Mercer Mayer



STORY DESCRIPTION: As the story unfolds our funny young hero, Little Critter, has to get used to a new baby sister. This is a problem as the baby doesn't pay attention when he reads to her. She always cries when he makes silly faces and she can't understand the jokes he tells. It seems like an impossible task, but Little Critter finally figures out what you CAN do with a new baby, and in the process becomes a very good brother!

SUBJECT: Social-Emotional Learning

GRADE LEVELS: Preschool, Pre-K, K

USING omBooks IN THE CLASSROOM

Reading Modes

Read it Myself

- Read the story to your students or have the students read the story themselves
- Turn the pages to read at your own pace

Read to Me

- Follow along as the story is read by the narrator
- Turn the pages to read at your own pace

Auto Play

- Follow along as the story is read by a narrator
- Pages turn automatically for reading at a controlled pace

Interactive Features

- Tap a picture to hear and see the word associated with it
- Tap on an individual word to hear it pronounced
- Touch and hold a paragraph to hear it read by a narrator
- Find the creatures throughout the story! Tap on them to count them.

Reading Dynamics

Large Group

- Connect your iOS or Android device to your classroom projector, TV, or computer monitor (see *How-To Guide*).
- Use the *Read it Myself* mode to read the story aloud, or use the *Read to Me* or *Auto Play* modes to present the story to the entire class.
- Use the discussion questions on page 3 to guide a whole-class discussion.
- Alternatively, if your students can read, project the questions on the screen. Invite students to partner up and discuss the story in pairs. Ask them to record their discussion on the iOS or Android device so you can assess their work.

Small Groups

- Gather a small group of students and display the iOS or Android device so all can see.
- Use the *Read it Myself* mode to read the story aloud, or use the *Read to Me* or *Auto Play* modes to present the story to the small group.
- Use the discussion questions on page 3 to guide a group discussion.

Partners

- If you have enough devices in the classroom, invite students to read or listen to the story in pairs.
- Students can take turns reading pages, asking questions, and supporting each other.
- If your students can read, give them the discussion questions from page 3. Ask them to record their discussion on the iOS or Android device so you can assess their work.
- If your students are non-readers, invite the class to come back together as a large group. Guide a class discussion using the discussion questions on page 3.

Independent

- If you have enough devices in the classroom, invite students to read or listen to the story independently.
- Students can use the interactive features to support their reading, and each student can explore the text and illustrations at an individualized pace.
- If your students can read, give them the discussion questions from page 3 and ask them to type or record their responses on the device.
- If your students are non-readers, invite the class to come back together as a large group. Guide a class discussion using the discussion questions on page 3.

DISCUSSING THE STORY

1. How does Little Critter welcome the new baby home? Does the baby play his games?
2. What happens when Little Critter reads his favorite book to the baby?
3. Why does the baby cry when Little Critter was being funny? Does the baby understand his jokes?
4. What can you do with a new baby?
5. Have you ever been around a new baby? What did you notice about the baby? What did you do with the baby?

EXTENDING THE LEARNING

Support students in using the iOS or Android device as a tool to extend their learning. Some ideas:

- **Baby photos:** Ask parents to email you a digital photo of their child as a baby. Ask parents to also share a fun fact about their child as a baby (for example: liked to hear lullabies, loved to ride in the car, etc.). Put all of the photos in a slideshow and play the slideshow on a big screen for the class. As each photo appears, share the fun fact about that baby, and let the class guess which baby photo belongs to which classmate!
- **Tell a transmedia story:** Encourage your students to think about a time when they had to play with someone they didn't want to play with. What happened? How did they feel? Support your students in creating a transmedia story about it. Use some or all of the following media:
 - Produce a movie
 - Record a story and save it as an audio file to play back or share
 - Perform a digital puppet show using a puppet app
 - Draw or paint scenes to create a slideshow

SHARING YOUR WORK

Have you used [The New Baby](#) omBook in your class? We'd love to hear about it! To share your experience, please visit the Education Center on our Facebook page: www.facebook.com/OceanhouseMedia .

DOWNLOADING THE APPS

omBooks (Oceanhouse Media Digital Books) are available for purchase in the following stores:

