



## ***Everywhere Babies***

<p>Before the meeting, <b>set up the room</b>. Make sure there are enough chairs for everyone, a book, and pencil at each place.</p>	
<p><b><u>Welcome members as they come in.</u></b></p> <p>Remind them to check their names on the roster. Introduce yourself and welcome the parents to Shared Beginnings. Set out the books already shared this year. (samples will be in the bin)</p> <p>As the students enter, invite them to share an experience they have had with their child and one of these books. Also, invite them to ask questions about the use of the books.</p>	10 min.
<p><b><u>Model reading the story. During the reading:</u></b></p> <p><b><u>Everywhere Babies</u></b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Model how you would share this book with a young child. Make sure and address the format of the book. Even though it is not a board book, it can still be used effectively. Parents can hold the book to read it to an infant. Toddlers can be taught to turn pages gently. This is not a book that you would want to keep in the toybox though.</li> <li>2) Make sure to notice all of the action going on in the story. It's a good bet that teens and toddlers will be pleased to see a family like theirs represented in the book.</li> <li>3) Encourage the parents to personalize the story. For example, The story says "Everywhere, every day, babies are fed." This is an excellent connection point for parents to talk about a child's favorite foods or mealtime. Since these actions are done "everywhere," there are of routines to connect to!</li> <li>4) Remind parents to affirm that they will read to their child every day.</li> </ol>	10 min.

<p><b>Discussion</b> (below are some thoughts, but encourage parents to come up with their own ideas):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>📖 Ask: “Why do you think we chose this book?”</li> <li>📖 Ask: “What would you like your child to notice about this book?”</li> <li>📖 Talk about the variety of families (ages, races, cultures) represented in the illustrations. Why is it important to include all these different types of people and families in the book?</li> <li>📖 Discuss when would be good time to read a book like this. This book is actually very flexible. The repetition and soothing language make it perfect for nap or bedtime reading. The pictures and story also lend themselves to active learning and talking time</li> <li>📖 Discuss ways to engage wiggly children, and also that it is perfectly normal for children to be moving around and not sitting still. They are still listening and we should keep trying to develop and lengthen their attention spans.</li> </ul> <p><b>Closure:</b></p>	<p>15 min.</p>
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**Facilitator Tips:**

- 📖 Remember to talk with the students about a child’s preferences. Now that they are building a home library they should give their child a chance to choose his or her own books. If your toddler chooses a book that is too long to hold his attention, read some and skip some, discussing the pictures and how they relate to the story.

**Library Challenge:**

This month’s challenge is to use the internet to find a list of books for babies and toddlers. (They’re out there!) Once they have a list – choose a book that interests them or their child and search for it at the library. Talk about the inter-library loan system. Let the parents know that if the book is ANYWHERE in Austin, they can have it sent to their local library for free. The librarian will even call them when it comes in!

**Materials to send home with parents:**

- 📖 Parent handout