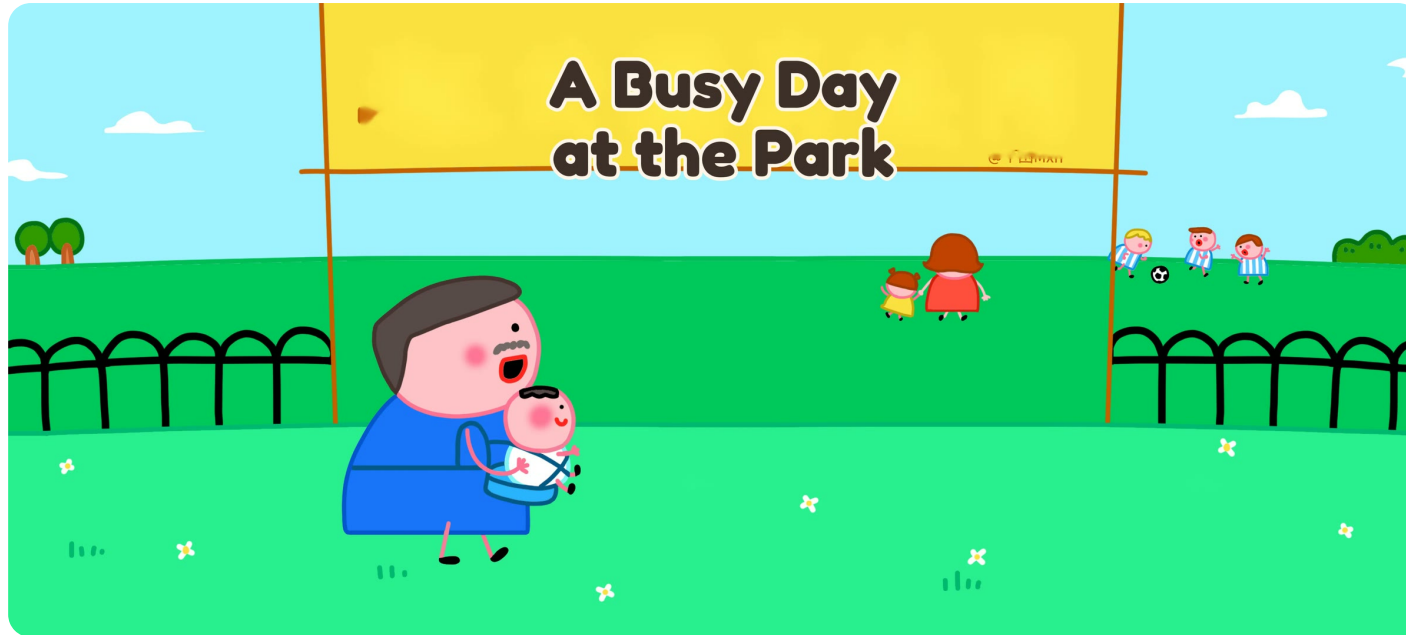




A Busy Day at the Park

Notice what catches your baby's attention, respond to their sounds and movements, and let them hear you talk with other people. These everyday exchanges help them experience the rhythm of conversation.

Helps Your Child Grow



Communicating and Speaking

Starting with what interests your baby, pausing for their response, and modeling everyday conversation helps them experience the back-and-forth rhythm of communication.



Relationships with Adults

Watching people and sharing activities that interest your baby creates relaxed, enjoyable time together.



What You'll Need



Hip-seat carrier

What You'll Need

1. A hip seat carrier



Start with What Catches Their Eye

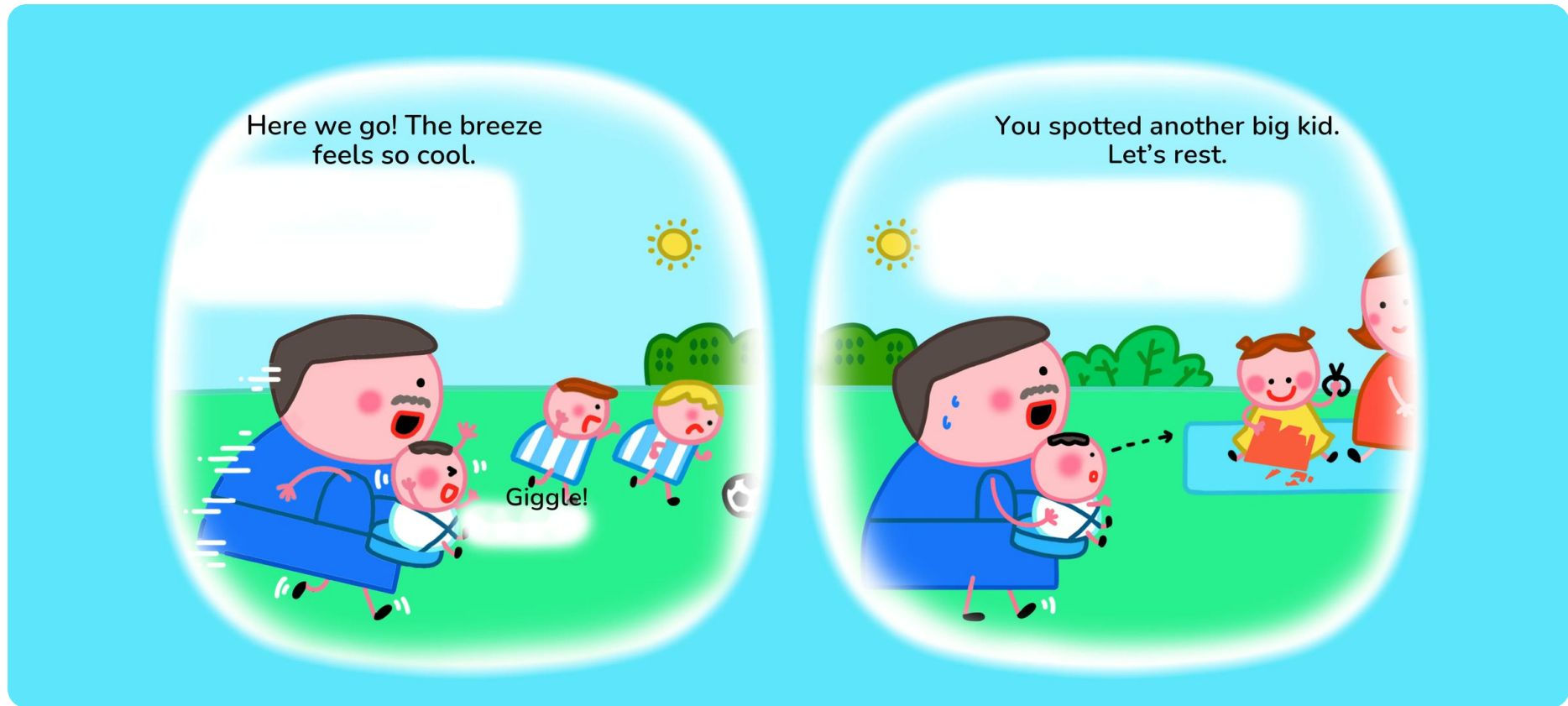
The park is full of new things that naturally catch your baby's attention. Notice where they are looking and use it to start a conversation. If they stare at a ball, for example, ask, "Do you want to kick the ball too?" Then pause and give your baby time to respond.

Observations

- Turns their head toward you when they hear you speaking
- Turns or shifts their body while sitting on the hip seat

Tips

- Looking, smiling, making a sound, reaching, or leaning closer can all be communication signals from your baby.
- Join your baby in something that interests them. When they are enjoying the moment, they may be more willing to keep communicating with you.
- Do not fill every pause. Give your baby enough time and space to respond.



Follow Their Lead and Respond

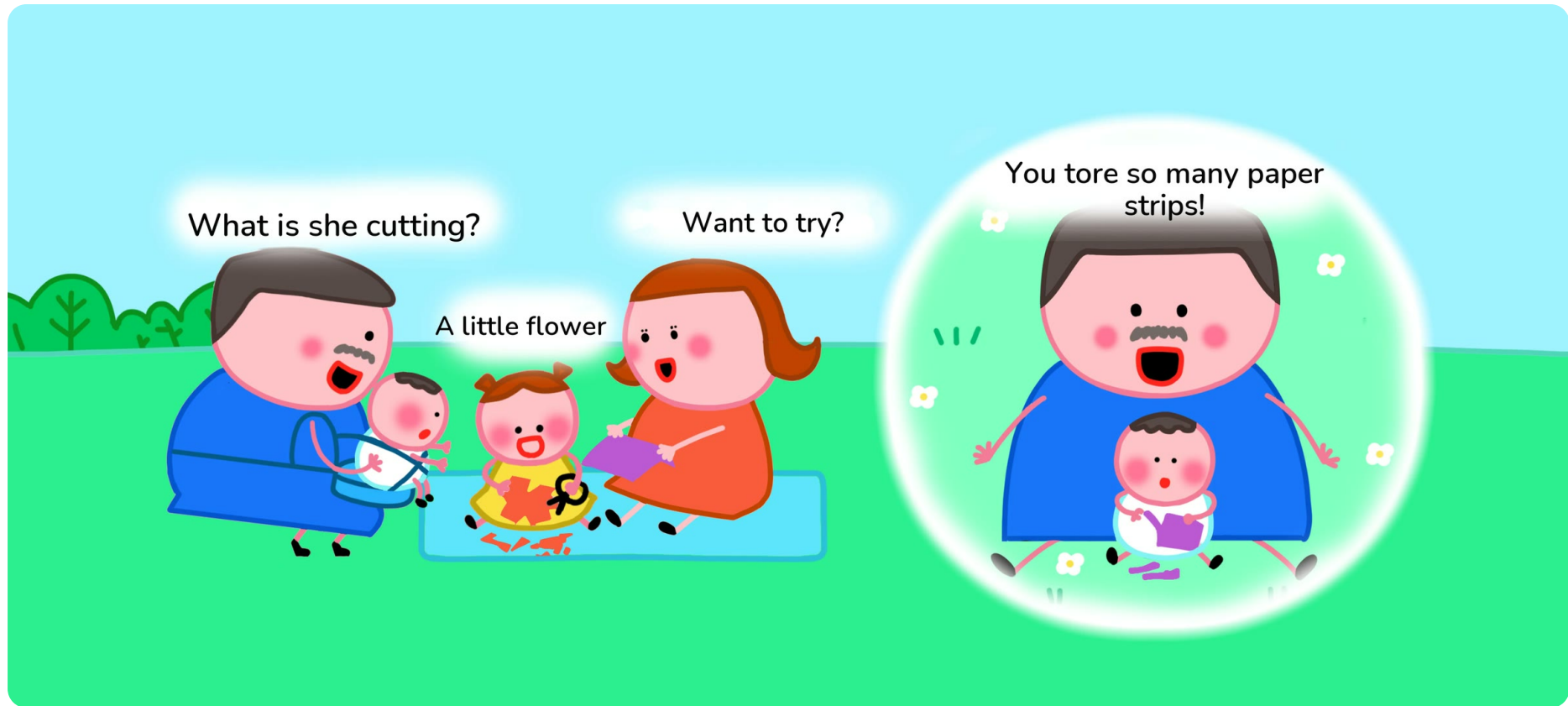
When your baby makes a sound, changes their expression, or moves their body, imitate what they did and add a response of your own. This creates a back-and-forth exchange. If their attention shifts, follow the new interest so the conversation can continue naturally.

Observations

- Laughs in response as you move and talk
- Shows a happy expression while playing with you

Tips

- Begin by talking about what your baby can see, what they are doing, or how they might be feeling.
- Following your baby's interest shows that you are looking and playing with them, which can encourage them to stay engaged with you.



Let Them Hear Everyday Conversation

Along with talking directly to your baby, have a natural, brief conversation with someone nearby about a person or activity that interests them. By watching and listening, your baby begins to experience how people join a conversation and take turns responding.

Observations

- Looks toward you and another person while you talk together
- Grasps a piece of paper and tries to pull or tear it

Tips

- When you put your baby's possible thought into words, they can begin connecting their actions and feelings with language.
- Everyday conversations create a natural language environment where your baby can hear many different ways of expressing an idea.
- If your baby plays with a piece of paper, respond to each action: "You grabbed it," or "The paper made a sound." This turns exploration into another back-and-forth exchange.