Clap Along with Me

Turn one song into a little clapping show and let your baby enjoy being an active part of the performance.

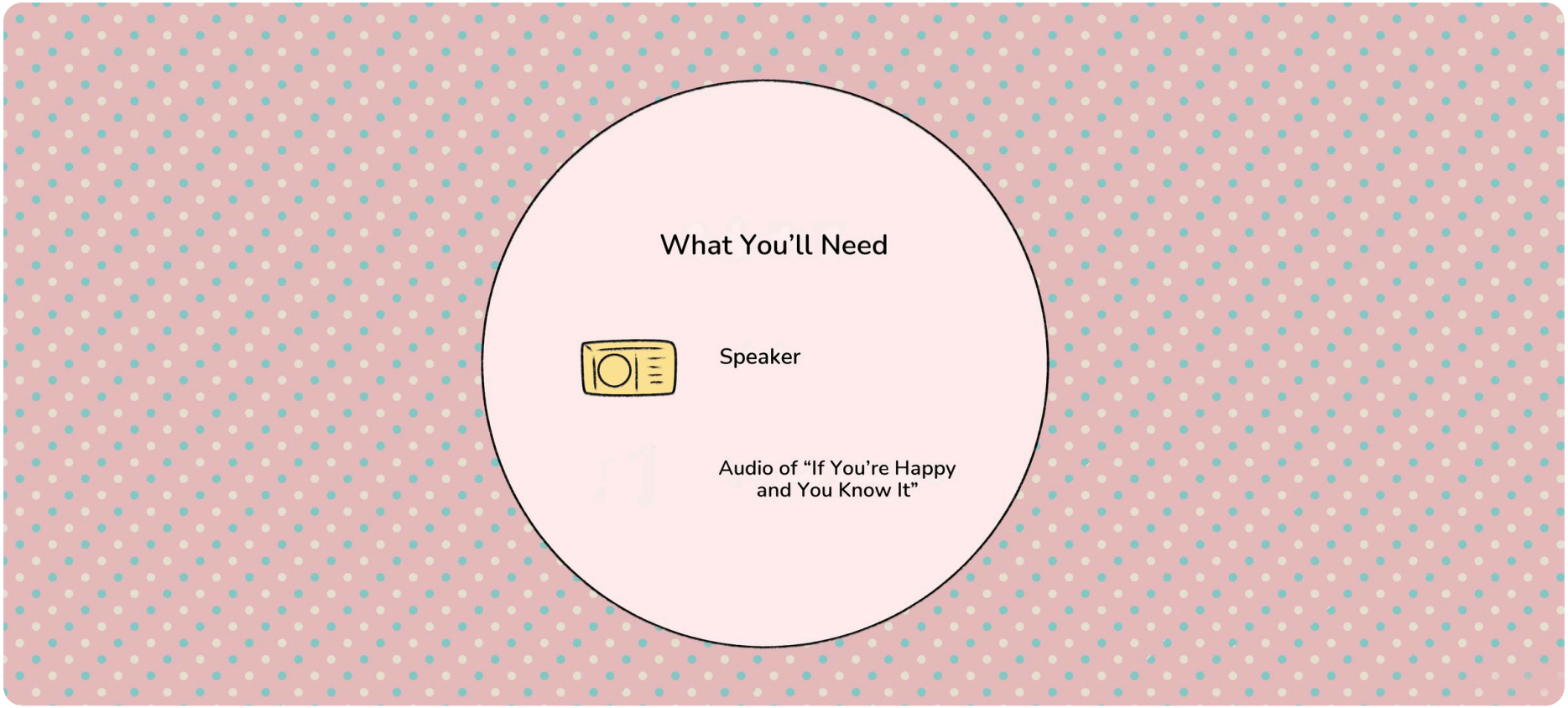
Helps Your Child Grow

Sense of Identity and Belonging

A simple rhyme paired with warm encouragement lets your baby experience the pleasure of joining in and feeling capable.

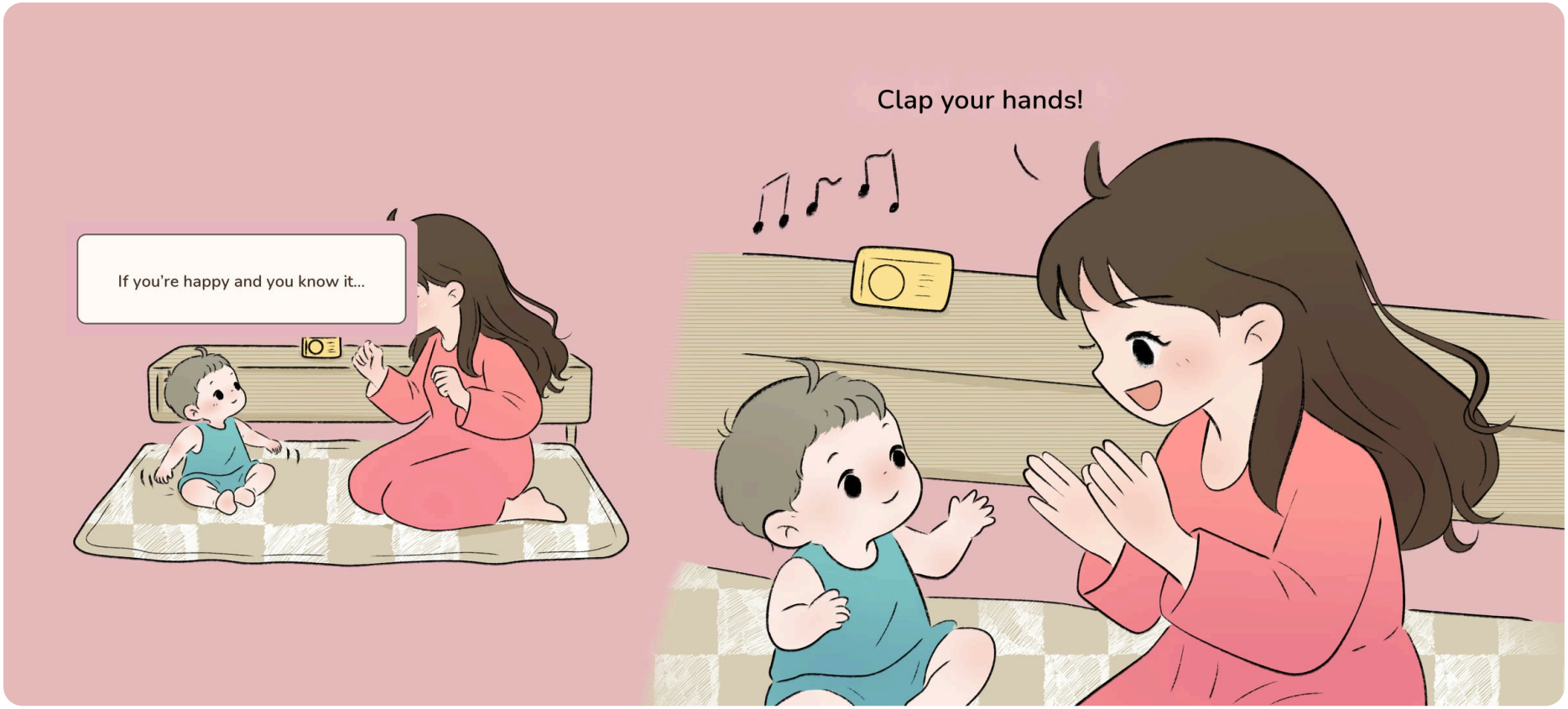
Imitation and Symbolic Representation and Play

Watching you clap and trying the action gives your baby practice imitating a familiar gesture and noticing how others respond.



What You'll Need

1. Music player
2. "If You're Happy and You Know It"



Show Your Baby How to Clap

Play “If You’re Happy and You Know It” and begin a little clapping show. When you reach “clap your hands,” repeat the words and clap so your voice and movement draw your baby’s attention.

Observations

- ○ Listens closely when the nursery-rhyme melody begins
- ○ Sways their body gently to the music

Tips

- A reaching hand, a small arm movement, or a steady look may show that your baby has noticed the performance.
- Repeat a few familiar songs each week. A familiar melody may make it easier for your baby to anticipate and join a repeated part.

Your Baby Tries to Clap

Keep the song going. The next time you sing “clap your hands,” pause before moving and look expectantly at your baby. Notice whether they attempt the action, and respond warmly to whatever they try.

Observations

- ◯ Copies your movement and claps their hands
- ◯ Looks at you expectantly after clapping their hands

Tips

- Your baby may clap or simply reach out. Acknowledge either attempt: “You’re moving your hands!”
- If your baby does not respond yet, keep enjoying the song and clap again so they can watch another demonstration.
- Through repeated imitation and your responses, your baby can begin connecting the movement with the shared game.
- Babies this age often watch and copy familiar actions. Keep the movement simple and easy to see.

The Whole Family Claps Along

Repeat the game over several days. As your baby's clapping becomes easier, invite more family members to watch and join. Their smiles and applause can make performing the familiar action feel especially rewarding.

Observations

- ○ Claps even more energetically after hearing praise
- ○ Interacts back and forth with you by clapping

Tips

- Each warm response shows your baby that their participation was noticed and enjoyed.
- Smiles and applause from familiar people can make your baby more willing to perform the action again.