



Talk with the Little Lion

Use an animated lion puppet to invite your baby into a back-and-forth exchange. Echo the sounds they make, then offer a few simple new sounds to imitate.

Helps Your Child Grow



Communicating and Speaking

An expressive puppet performance and a quick response to your baby's pitch and final sounds encourage them to vocalize and imitate something new.



Imitation and Symbolic Representation and Play

Repeated mouth movements, expressions, and gestures give your baby clear patterns to watch and copy.



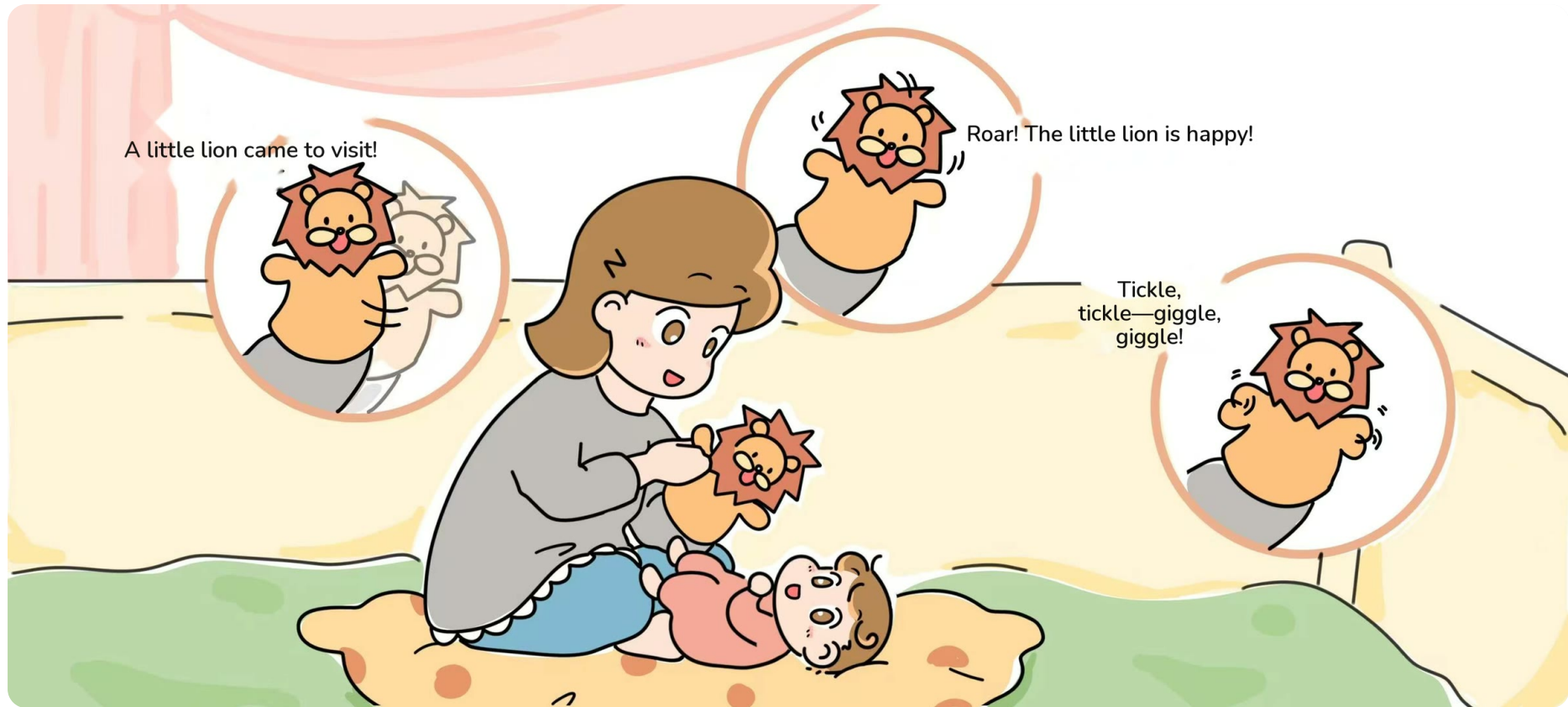
What You'll Need



Lion Hand Puppet

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1. A lion hand puppet or favorite stuffed animal



The Little Lion Arrives

Bring out the lion puppet with an expressive voice, animated face, and playful sounds. Let the lively entrance catch your baby's attention and prepare the two of you for a sound exchange.

Observations

- Smiles or laughs at the lion puppet's performance
- Watches the lion puppet closely

Tips

- Any favorite puppet or stuffed animal can take the role. Babies are often drawn to expressive movement and changing sounds.
- Vary the pitch and rhythm of the lion's voice to make the performance easier to follow.



Take Turns with the Lion

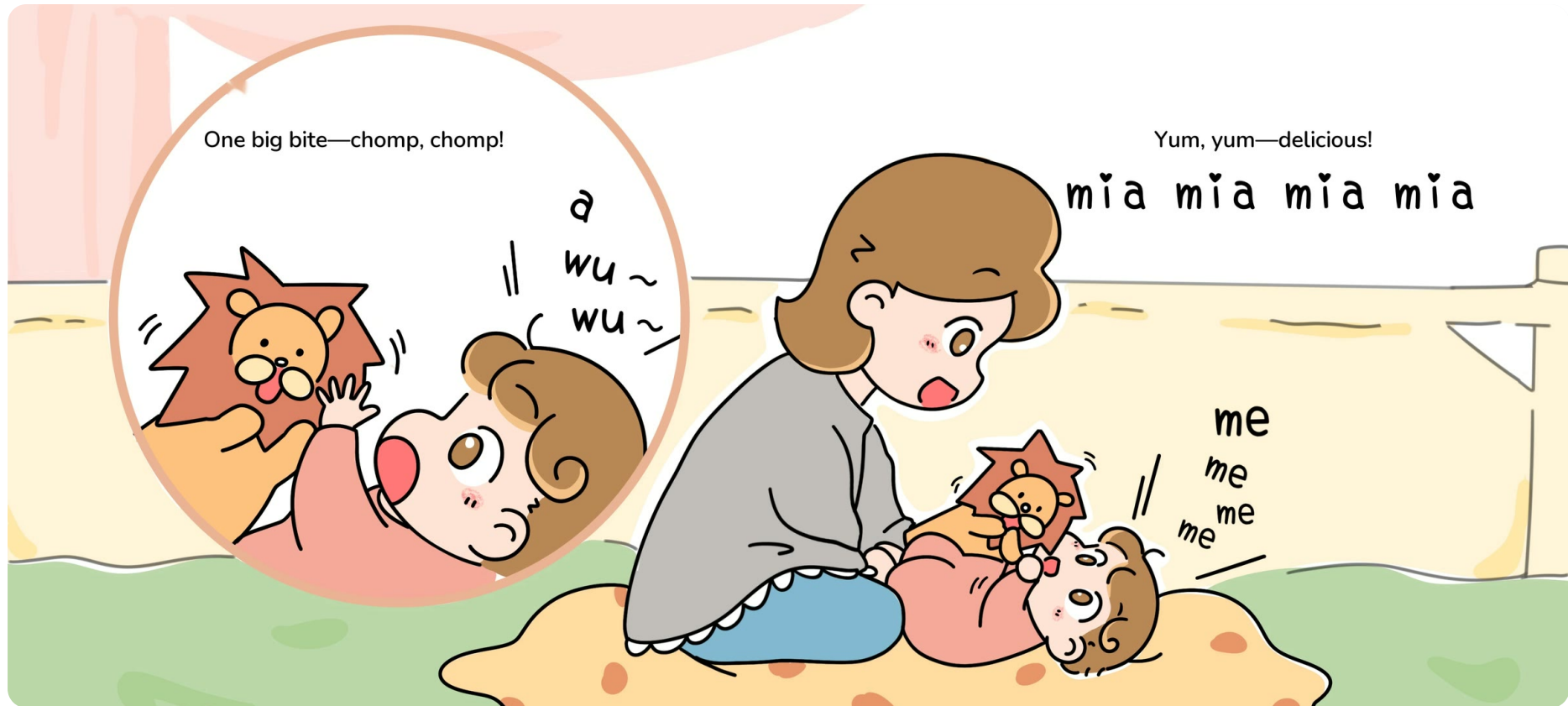
Move the lion closer and begin a simple exchange: the lion makes one sound, then pauses for your baby. When your baby vocalizes, echo the ending sound or rhythm before the lion answers again.

Observations

- Vocalizes after the lion pauses, creating a back-and-forth exchange
- Responds eagerly to you or the lion puppet

Tips

- A questioning or inviting tone can help draw your baby's attention and leave room for a response.
- Repeating your baby's sound shows that their turn was heard and can encourage another turn.
- Build the exchange around the toy's character: a lion on patrol, a bear finding honey, or a mouse looking for cheese.



Give the Lion New Sounds

Keep the puppet conversation going and slowly add easy-to-see lip sounds such as b, p, and m. Use a clear mouth shape and an expressive voice, then pause for your baby to try.

Observations

- Attempts to imitate the end of your sound, even if it is not exact
- Copies a mouth movement or gesture made by you or the lion

Tips

- An approximation still counts as an attempt to imitate a new sound.
- Try repeated syllables, animal sounds, or a long final sound and notice which one your baby wants to copy.