

Read a Picture Book Together

Explore a picture book with your baby. Notice what holds their attention, respond with expressive words and actions, and make shared reading a warm, playful routine.

Helps Your Child Grow



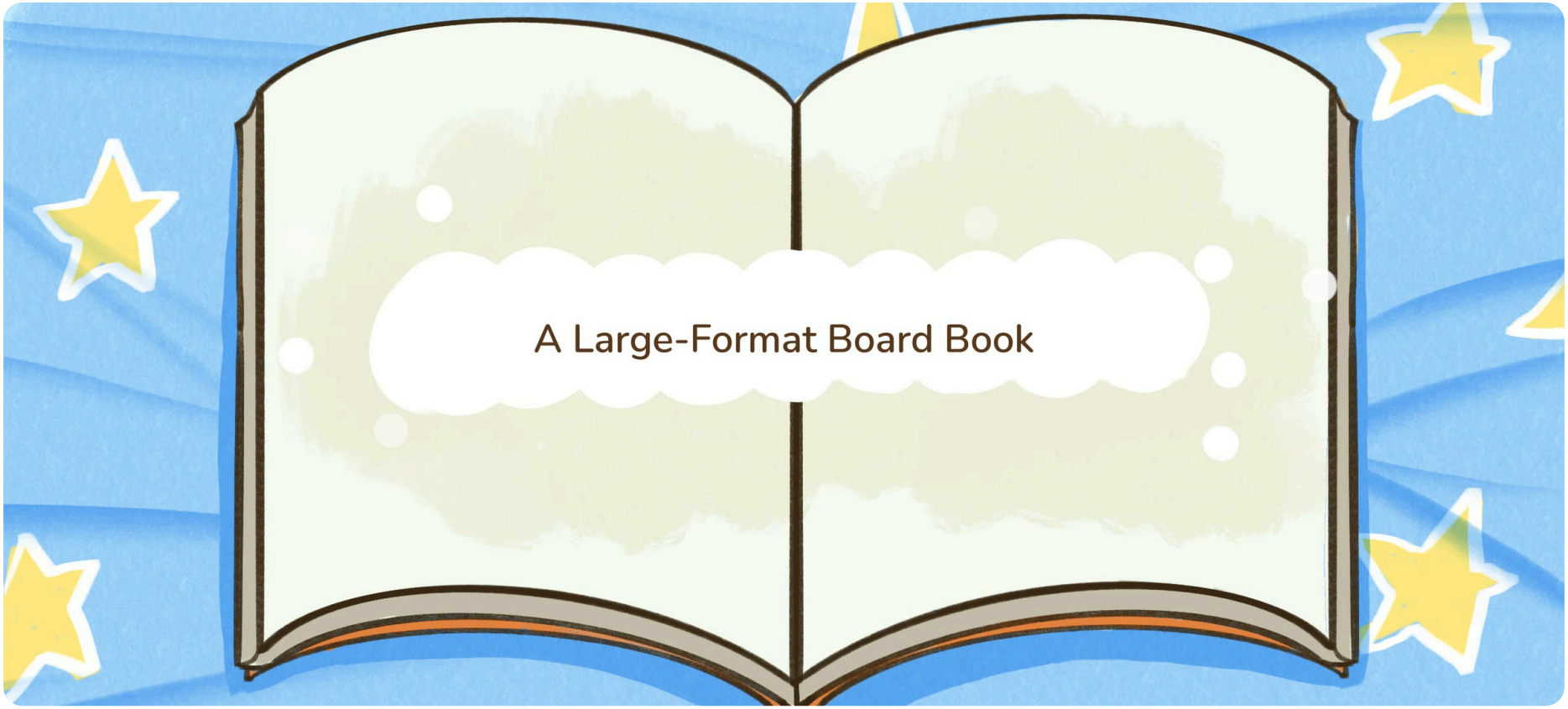
Emergent Literacy

Looking, listening, and responding to expressive speech helps your baby connect spoken words with pictures and build early experience with books.



Sense of Identity and Belonging

A warm, predictable shared-reading routine gives your baby repeated experience feeling secure and connected with family.



What You'll Need

1. A large board book



Listen and Turn the Pages

Choose a regular time to read, such as before bed. Let your baby look at and touch the book. When one page holds their attention, stay and talk about it. When their interest fades, turn the page and see what catches their eye next.

Observations

- ○ Looks from side to side and pats the book while exploring it
- ○ Looks at a picture while listening to you talk about it

Tips

- Follow your baby's interest. Add detail when they stay with a page; keep it brief or turn the page when they are ready to move on.
- Young babies often need extra time to take in a picture and may attend only briefly.
- Turning a page reveals something new and helps your baby experience that a book has an order.



Look and Act It Out

On each new page, ask a short question or change your tone of voice, then pause for your baby's response. When a picture especially interests them, act out something from it to make the exchange more engaging.

Observations

- ○ Looks between the book and your actions
- ○ Uses a facial expression to show interest in a picture

Tips

- Staring, patting the page, reaching, or turning back can all show that a picture interests your baby.
- Use an expressive face, gesture, movement, or voice to bring a picture to life.
- You do not need to read from beginning to end. Start with the page your baby wants to explore.



Make Reading a Familiar Routine

Keep a regular shared-reading time so the sequence becomes familiar. End with the same short phrase, such as “All done,” to signal that the book is finished and the next part of the routine is beginning.

Observations

- ◯ Gets ready for sleep after seeing you close the book
- ◯ Stares at the cover while you introduce it

Tips

- Let your baby help turn pages. The movement practices hand control and gives them an active role in reading.
- Hold your baby close or offer a gentle cuddle while reading to support a warm connection with you and with books.