

Rock-a-Bye Romp

The 2017 CLEL Bell Award Book for SING

by Linda Ashman, illustrated by Simona Mulazzani
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This bedtime romp starts with the familiar lines of "Rock-a-Bye, baby, in the treetop" only to head off on an adventure, taking baby into a bird's nest, through a farmyard, over a waterfall, and onto the back of a flying hawk. All the words of the book can be sung to the tune of Rock-a-Bye Baby. Changing the words to a familiar song is a fun way introduce a child to new vocabulary and to make children laugh.

Activity Ideas for *Rock-a-Bye Romp*:

- This book is based on the classic nursery song, *Rock a Bye Baby*.
*Rock a bye, baby, in the treetop, when the wind blows, the cradle will rock
When the bough breaks, the cradle will fall
And down will come baby, cradle and all*
Lay the child on a blanket on a bed, gather the blanket edges in your hands, and swing the child back and forth. Sing the lullaby and gently drop the child onto the bed when you sing, "down will come baby." Or, bounce the child on your lap and softly drop them between your legs instead. The child may learn to anticipate when they will "fall"! The ability to listen and predict are helpful when learning to read and building comprehension skills.
- The baby in the story encounters many animals on the farm. Flip through the pages of the book, naming the animals and making animal sounds together. Hearing and making animal sounds helps children recognize these sounds in other words, and will help them learn to sound out words when they start reading.
- Guide a child through the routine of getting a stuffed animal ready for bed. Ask what to do first, next, and last. "First we put on our pajamas, then we brush our teeth. Next we read a book, and last we give a kiss!" Putting events in order helps children understand that stories have a beginning, middle, and end, and helps them build sequencing and comprehension skills.

The CLEL Bell Picture Book Awards are given to books that provide excellent support of early literacy development in young children. For more information and for other activity sheets, visit <http://www.clel.org> and select the CLEL Bell Awards tab.



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