

Baby Talk

A Guide for Teachers and Parents



Written by **Sope Martins**
Illustrated by **Alex Latimer**

THEMES

Family & Friends

Social & Emotional Learning

SUB-THEMES

Emotional Awareness

Sibling Relationships

Communication

Story Discussion Guide

Learning Outcome

Children will:

- Learn that babies communicate through cries, sounds, and gestures
- Begin to understand emotional cues in others
- Build empathy for younger siblings or babies around them
- Develop confidence in expressing their own feelings
- Strengthen bonds with family through observation and care

Lesson Plan Summary

This lesson helps young children understand non-verbal communication, emotions, and the importance of caregiving in family relationships.

Lesson Plan

Before Reading:

1. Do you have a younger sibling or baby in your family?
2. How do babies talk if they can't use words?
3. What do you think babies need the most?

During Reading:

- Pause when Tayo guesses what Tinu wants—ask: What do you think?
- Let children mimic baby sounds and expressions to guess meanings.
- Ask: How is Tayo being a good big brother?

After Reading:

1. Why was Tinu crying?
2. What did Tayo learn about his baby sister?
3. How can we understand someone who doesn't speak?
4. What are ways to show care to babies?

Activities :

- Baby Needs Game: Show items (bottle, blanket, toy) and ask which helps with different baby cries.
- Feelings Match: Match pictures of babies showing emotions with reasons (hungry, tired, happy).
- Caring Hands: Children draw a picture of how they can help someone younger than them.

Expected Outcomes

Children will develop empathy, become more aware of emotional expressions in others, and feel confident in caring for younger siblings or peers. They'll also understand that love is expressed in many different ways—even in cries.

Applicable SDGs

SDG 3: Good Health and Well-being

SDG 4: Quality Education

SDGs Explanation

SDG 3: Promotes mental well-being and emotional connection within families.

SDG 4: Supports early learning around emotional cues and interpersonal skills.

CURRICULUM ALIGNMENT

- Get Well Soon – emotional sensitivity and support
- The Best Doll Festival, Ever! – sibling teamwork and empathy
- It's My Birthday! – young children and family love
- Song in Her Heart – understanding differences in communication

About Zamasama

Zamasama is a nonprofit initiative that curates children's stories from diverse cultures and lived experiences around the world. It gives children a window into other communities—and a mirror that affirms their own, helping children recognize the shared humanity that connects us across differences.

Through narratives that gently challenge biases and broaden worldviews, Zamasama helps children see difference not as a barrier but as a bridge. Through the power of stories, we sow the seeds of pluralism that can grow into a more harmonious world for all.