

Giraffes Can't Dance

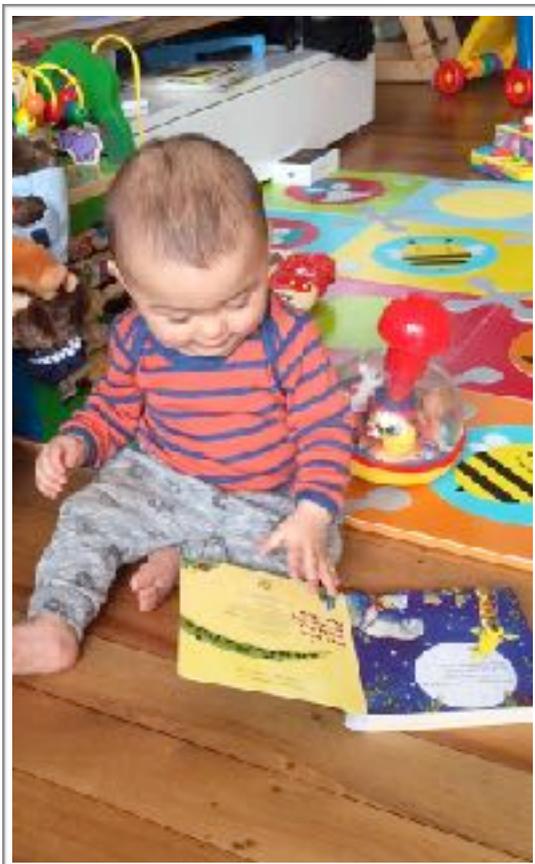
Dear Liam

Since you were born you have had books read to you, so it comes as no surprise to see you are now beginning to 'read' the books yourself. I love reading books and I really love reading them to you Liam. I feel really happy when I combine two of my loves, you, and reading and we spend time together revisiting some of your books.

One of your favourites is "Giraffes can't dance" - well I am not sure if it is really your favourite but it is always in the lounge room where you play and is one that you and I revisit most times I come to visit. I like to that it is Gerald the Giraffe, as you have a big Giraffe in your room who I think is called Gerald too - I wonder if he can dance?

The last few times I have visited you have been looking at Giraffes can't dance and I noticed that you are turning the pages now and making different sounds as you turn each page. There is another book that you were looking at too, it is all in Chinese so when we look at this one together I make up a story and I think this is what you are doing too when you read your books

When we read to you, our voices go up and down as we make the sounds of the animals. Often I point out the monkeys to you and make a monkey sound, some of the sounds you make are a bit like that and I get the feeling you are beginning to make connections with the pictures and the sounds.



What learning do I see here for you Liam?

In another story I wrote for you I wrote about how you learn, how you listen and watch others for your learning cues and reading and talking is no different to that. You are imitating what you hear your family and friends saying to you and are making your voice go high and low as you read your books. You are also learning about early literacy, that words have meaning, that books tell a story and a conversation happens when you read a book. The teachers at Bear Park have written about your love of communicating with your friends and the way you are expressing yourself through the sounds you are making. Reading books is another way you are communicating, sometimes you read the book to yourself and other times you want some one to listen to you while you read it. Who ever your audience is, you are expressing yourself through the sharing of books.

How might we support you in your reading journey Liam?

With the books you love, over time, you will become more and more familiar with the story and will be able to retell the story yourself. Your Great Uncle Grant loved a book called 'The Fly Went By' and we read it together so many times that I can still remember the story! This is how you learn to read, by listening, watching and being a part of joyful reading times! We will all keep reading to you so you can keep growing as a dispositional reader with a love of reading.

Lots of Love
Nainai
28 October 2016

