Suggestions for using ***American Babies***

* Distribute copies of the books to parents and caregivers. Ask the adults to hold their children in their laps and follow along as you read the book aloud. Encourage the adults to join you in choral reading at key points of the story, (repetitive phrases, point out colors, names of animals, etc.).
* Point out ways that this book builds early literacy skills:
  + **Print Motivation –** Babies and toddlers love looking at illustrations of other babies. Encourage the parents/caregivers to have fun looking at the pictures of the babies in this book. If babies are able, encourage them to hold the book and turn pages. This builds print motivation, a child’s interest in and enjoyment of books.
  + **Vocabulary** – When we help babies & toddlers identify parts of their bodies we are building their vocabulary, the ability to know the names of things. Read the story through a second time and encourage the parents and caregivers to point to their own baby’s eyes, nose and mouth, etc.
  + **Print Awareness** – Point to key vocabulary words, this shows children that you are reading the words on the page and helps build print awareness, which helps children notice print, know how to handle a book and learn to follow the written word on the page.
  + **Phonological Awareness** – This lyrical story helps children hear that language consists of different sounds and rhythms. Read the story through a second time, taking care to accentuate key words and phrases.
* Literacy handouts for parents and caregivers are available on the SCLS early literacy page at: <http://www.scls.info/ys/earlyliteracy/index.html>
* Please share your ideas for using ***American Babies.***  Write up a description of your program and place a copy in this folder.

***American Babies***

**SCLS Board Book Kit Contents**

(Return folder with kit to delivery - ZZZ)

Please make sure that the following items are returned to the Board Book Kit:

1. 20 copies of ***American Babies*** (board books are numbered)
2. Blue guidelines folder, containing:
   1. Suggestions for using ***American Babies***
   2. Copy of “Six Skills Your Child Needs” sheet. You are welcome to copy this sheet and distribute it to parents and caregivers. The original is available on line at: [www.ala.org/ala/alsc/ECRR/workshopsab/trainingmaterials/postersmore/eldiagram.pdf](http://www.ala.org/ala/alsc/ECRR/workshopsab/trainingmaterials/postersmore/eldiagram.pdf)
   3. “The Play’s the Thing” handout, from *Lapsit Services for the Very Young II*.
   4. “Planning, presenting and evaluating your programs” handout from *Literate Beginnings: Programs for Babies & Toddlers.*

You are welcome to make copies of items in the guidelines folder for your files.