A Mud Pie for Mother
By Scott Beck

Little pig looks for a birthday present for his mother. Because he doesn’t take away his friends’ favorite things, they each reward him for being so kind.

New words and sounds your baby might learn:
eggs, bread, flowers, hay, buzz, breakfast, dirt, mud.

Before:
• Name some farm animals and make their sounds. See if your child will imitate you.

During:
• As you point to each animal, say its name and the sound that it makes.
• Point to and name the mother and baby animals.
• Point to the animals’ body parts and name them.
• Together, find the eyes on each of the animals. Next, look for another body part on each one.
• After reading the book and naming pictures many times for your toddler, ask him questions such as, “Can you find the flower? The cow? The chicken?”

After:
• With your toddler, find and name real examples of some things in the book: eggs, milk, bread, flowers.
• Tell your child when he does something that makes you very happy -- like little pig made his mother happy.
• When your child no longer puts everything in his mouth, help him make mud pies outside.
• When your child is older, talk about how kind the pig was to not take things that were important to someone else.

Try some of the ideas above. Continue to use your own imagination during book play, too. Have fun with the book and enjoy your time together.

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