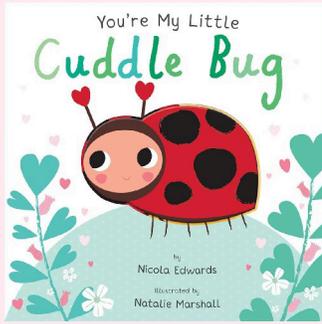


Book to add to your child's library: *Cuddle Bug* by Nicola Edwards



BABY GAMES & LANGUAGE

"I Love Your..." Game

Point to baby's features and name them:

I love your toes...

I love your nose...

I love your smile...

Mirror Love Talk

Sit with baby in front of a mirror and say:

"I love you."

Pause and wait for coos or facial responses.

Say Baby's Name

Gently repeat baby's name with warmth and expression:

"Mama loves [Name]."

"[Name] is so loved."

EXPLORATION

Valentine's Sensory Bin:

Fill a bin with red/pink shredded paper, soft felt hearts, and ribbons. While the baby explores, name the items ("red heart," "soft ribbon") to build receptive language.

Red, Pink & White Discovery

Show baby items in Valentine colors and describe them slowly:

Red heart... pink heart... white heart.

Gentle Scent Moment

Let baby smell something subtle and familiar (a freshly cleaned blanket, mom's lotion on your hands).

MUSIC & MOVEMENT

Baby is Loved

(tune of "Twinkle Twinkle Little Star")

Baby is loved, yes it's true,
Mama loves you, Daddy too.
Hugs and kisses, soft and sweet,
Love you from your head to feet.
Baby is loved, yes it's true,
Baby, baby, we love you.

Skinnamarink

(If you don't already know the tune, stream a digital version of it. This is a fun one for your little one, and you'll want to sing it over and over again.)

Skinnamarink e-dink, e-dink,
Skinnamarink e-doo,
I love you.
(repeat)

I love you in the morning,
And in the afternoon;
I love you in the evening,
And underneath the moon.
Skinnamarink e-dink, e-dink,
Skinnamarink e-doo,
I love you.

RELATIONSHIP BUILDING / BONDING

Valentine's Bath Time:

Use shaving cream on the tub wall or bath surface to draw hearts, Xs, and Os.

Use a heart-shaped sponge to squeeze and pat, practicing fine motor skills and tactile stimulation.

make eye contact, smile, and talk slowly. Whisper: "You are safe. You are loved. Mama is here."

Valentine Cuddle

Wrap baby in a blanket and hold them close while whispering loving words.

Love Gaze Time

Hold baby face-to-face,