This bedtime romp starts with the familiar lines of "Rock-a-Bye, baby, in the
treetop" only to head off on an adventure, taking baby into a bird's nest,
through a farmyard, over a waterfall, and onto the back of a flying hawk. All
the words of the book can be sung to the tune of Rock-a-Bye Baby. Changing
the words to a familiar song is a fun way introduce a child to new vocabulary
and to make children laugh.

Activity Ideas for Rock-a-Bye Romp:

• This book is based on the classic nursery song, Rock a Bye Baby.
  
  Rock a bye, baby, in the treetop, when the wind blows, the cradle will rock
  When the bough breaks, the cradle will fall
  And down will come baby, cradle and all

  Lay the child on a blanket on a bed, gather the blanket edges in your hands, and
  swing the child back and forth. Sing the lullaby and gently drop the child onto the
  bed when you sing, “down will come baby.” Or, bounce the child on your lap and
  softly drop them between your legs instead. The child may learn to anticipate when
  they will “fall”! The ability to listen and predict are helpful when learning to read
  and building comprehension skills.

• The baby in the story encounters many animals on the farm. Flip through the pages
  of the book, naming the animals and making animals sounds together. Hearing and
  making animal sounds helps children recognize these sounds in other words, and will
  help them learn to sound out words when they start reading.

• Guide a child through the routine of getting a stuffed animal ready for bed. Ask what
to do first, next, and last. “First we put on our pajamas, then we brush our teeth.
Next we read a book, and last we give a kiss!” Putting events in order helps children
understand that stories have a beginning, middle, and end, and helps them build
sequencing and comprehension skills.

The CLEL Bell Picture Book Awards are given to books that provide excellent support
of early literacy development in young children. For more information
and for other activity sheets, visit http://www.clel.org and select the CLEL Bell Awards tab.

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