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## SHARE/STEP Method

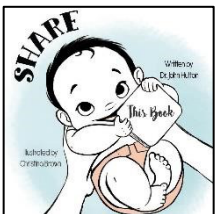
Children who grow up being read to and enjoying the process are more likely to become readers later on. The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends families begin reading to children beginning as soon as possible after birth, to help build skills, brains and relationships. “Dialogic reading” is a method of book sharing developed for preschool-age and older children to increase interest, interactivity, and the fun of reading together, which is very effective. However, reading with pre-verbal infants and toddlers presents different challenges and opportunities. Many parents can get frustrated and even wonder if reading at this age is worthwhile.

Developed by a pediatrician and literacy expert, the science-backed SHARE/STEP method shows how to get the most out of every reading and book-sharing experience at this important age!

The acronym **SHARE** reflects ways for grownup caregivers to share a book with a baby, and the acronym **STEP** represents ways to **R**espond to the baby.

- 1) Snuggle on the parent/caregiver’s lap.
- 2) **H**ands on - let the baby hold the book and learn how it works.
- 3) **A**ffection – give lots of smiles and hugs to show that reading together is *love-ly*.
- 4) **R**espond to what the baby says or does through these STEPs:
  - **S-t-r-e-t**-ch word sounds so that the baby can hear and learn them.
  - **T**alk about pictures in the book – what do you see?
  - **E**xplore word sounds in fun ways (examples: choo-choo or animal noises).
  - **P**atience: if your baby is fussy or distracted, stay calm and keep trying!
- 5) **E**njoy book sharing, rather than worry about doing it “right.” Reading can be messy!

**SHARE This Book** is a “training manual” for the SHARE/STEP method, showing how it’s done!



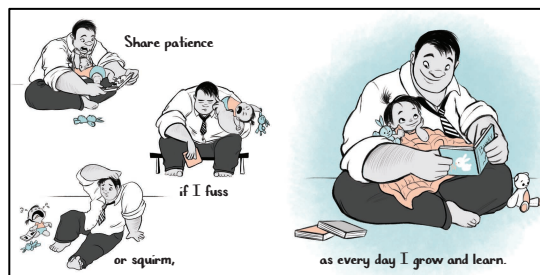
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Non-profit discounted price: **Ask us!**  
Ages 0-3



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Sample page spread: **Hands on**



Sample page spread: **Patience**