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I'm A Big Brother



Synopsis

"Someone new is at our house," begins this loving, reassuring look at brotherhood from trusted author Joanna Cole. Told through the eyes of a new older brother, this simple story lays out all the good things about being an older sibling, and reminds new brothers that they are just as special as ever. With an author's note about what big siblings need "extra guidance, reassurance, love" and sweet, engaging artwork by Rosalinda Kightley, it's no wonder that over 1 million families have chosen I'm a Big Sister and I'm a Big Brother to prepare their young ones for their first big transition.

Book Information

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[Up & Facts of Life > Family Life > New Baby](#)

Customer Reviews

I have been looking some time now for a book for my son that tells him about having a new baby. I really like how this book tells what all a new baby can't do yet (ex. new babies can't talk, walk, play with toys yet, and can't eat pizza or ice cream). Then the book goes on to tell what babies can do (ex. Babies like to drink milk, stay warm and cozy, and best of all the baby loves to look at me because I'm the big brother!). The book makes the brother of the baby feel special because the book explains to them that they are a big boy and a new brother. It lets them know that they can help mommy and daddy with the baby! My son is only 2 1/2 but loves this book more than I thought he would. He now talks about can't waiting for his new baby to get here. Now He tells everyone that he is a big brother, my little guy is just so proud of this! This is a very well written book, easy to understand even for a 2 year old. As a new mom to be I also love this book, it helps explain things

that I wasn't sure how to.

This updated version, illustrated by Rosalinda Kightley, is better than the original. The original never showed the mother holding the baby whereas the new version does, a couple of times. Neither version shows breastfeeding but the new version cuts back on the bottle feeding at least. My son loves this book and we have tried many. He is 28 months old and most books are too old for him or too detailed to capture his attention. We first borrowed this book from the library, along with all of the others we've tried, and had to buy it after renewing it 3 times. I also like the fact that the book does not address negative feelings the older sibling may have. We'll cross that bridge when we come to it; why give him any ideas? Another great choice on this subject is *On Mother's Lap* by Ann Herbert Scott. My son also loves the Sesame Street video *Three Bears and a New Baby*. If you are looking for a parenting book for yourself on this subject, try *Welcoming Your Second Baby*, by Vicky Lansky or *Keys to Preparing and Caring for Your Second Child*, by Meg Zweiback. Avoid the book *From One Child to Two*, by Judy Dunn. Dunn's book was so indecisive and negative, we might not be having another child after reading it if I hadn't already been pregnant.

After reading about 8 big brother/big sister books, this is one of my top three favorites. The mood of the book is very positive, unlike many others on the subject. Our son enjoys it very much.

Our 2 1/2 year old has really taken to this book--it's perfectly age appropriate. It is NOT wordy, like one negative review said. 2-3 simple, short sentences per two page spreads is not wordy for a two year old. The pictures are simple and it addresses how a baby cannot do the same things as a big boy--walk, talk, eat pizza, etc. It has a very positive tone and talks about all the nice things a big brother can do for a new (genderless, so it works for everyone) baby; i.e. sing a song, hold gently after asking Mommy, helping Daddy with diaper, keeping the baby warm and cozy. One negative review complained that the mother doesn't hold the baby at all--that's just not true. It shows her holding the baby on two separate pages to be exact...same as *Dad and the Big Brother*. It does show the baby in a stroller, so if you think strollers are terrible, I guess you'll dislike that. I do agree with the complaints that it doesn't address nursing at all. Not many books do--I wish it had one page showing Mom nursing the baby with a simple "Sometimes babies drink milk from Mommy too." along with the bottle. But it only shows a bottle in passing in any case. If you have an 18 month-3 year old about to be a big brother, this book is a perfect introduction for them. Well worth it!

When we first picked up this book for my three-year-old, we thought it was a pretty great book. My 3-year-old loved it, and even memorized it. He requested that we read it several times a day. Then the new baby came, and I started seeing the problems with the book. For instance, as others have noted, the baby in this book eats from a bottle, and the big brother can help. Since we are nursing, this is not an option for my son and he is seemingly constantly asking why he can't help (if he didn't love the book so much I would just make it disappear at this point, because it seems very contradictory for me to tell him that we don't use a bottle and then to read to him that the baby drinks from a bottle). It is also bothersome that the mother in this book NEVER holds the baby. The brother and father both hold the baby, and we see her in a stroller and in a swing, but there is zero interaction between the mother and baby, and that is what is so completely unrealistic for me. I think it's great to promote dads holding babies, changing diapers, and feeding bottles, but it is not realistic to portray the mom has having no involvement at all.

This is one of several books I bought for my almost-two-year-old. It's one of his favorites. The book deals with the addition of a baby very matter-of-factly, but positively. Both Mommy & Daddy take care of the baby. Daddy even changes a diaper. It gives a very positive account of the new baby in respect to the big brother, too. The advantages of being a big boy and big brother are highlighted. I've given this book as a gift for friends having their second child.

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