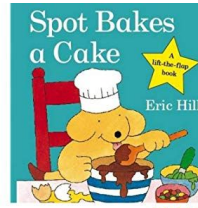




SpeakEasy Sandbox #15: Spot Bakes a Cake

Our Book of the Week is:
Spot Bakes a Cake, by Eric Hill.



Pre-verbal

Activity: The *Spot Bakes a Cake* board book is a great one for early exposure and learning about how books work. While reading this book, point and label familiar items and actions (e.g. "eggs," "I see a spoon," "He's stirring", "yum!").

Vocalizer

Activity: Before opening each flap, repeat "open" or "look!" Once you open the flaps use play sounds or exclamatory words like "wow!", "yay!", or "oh no!" to draw your child's attention. Don't expect your child to repeat these words just yet, but know they are listening and learning.

First word user

Activity: Though your child is only using single words, s/he understands sentences with greater complexity. Make connections to things that are important to your child. For example, "Mmm you love chocolate" or "Spot is cracking eggs like we did yesterday." This helps your child understand new vocabulary.

Word combiner

Activity: After reading *Spot Bakes a Cake* a few times, engage in pretend play to make your own cake! Using items around the house like a bowl, spoon, plastic eggs, a shoe box etc, pretend to make a cake and have a birthday party together.

Full sentences

Activity: After reading, help your child make a cake shopping list. Help your child draw a picture of each item and write the word next to it so they can practice seeing letters and words, even if they are not yet reading or writing. Then, take your list to the real or pretend (your own kitchen) grocery store.

The SpeakEasy Sandbox is a newsletter that provides caregivers the necessary tools to boost their child's language development through play. Sign up at www.speakeasycommunity.com.