

**Name:**

## Day One

# Learning from Babies

### Part 1: Silent read

→ Can babies help reduce bullying in school? Read silently.

Jessica nervously scanned the lunchroom. Even though there were many empty seats, she knew she wouldn't be able to find a place to eat her lunch. "This seat is reserved for people who speak real English," Tasha said menacingly. She was making fun of Jessica's Spanish accent.

Newcomers are just one group that may be targeted in schools. Many children have been bullied or have bullied their classmates. Experts say bullying may start as early as preschool. But incidents of bullying are often underreported. Bullying is serious because victims may have lifelong problems. Bullies are at risk, as well. Children who bully others may have been mistreated at home.

Schools are trying to reduce bullying by punishing children for even teasing classmates. Some schools in Canada are trying an offbeat approach. They are bringing babies into classrooms to help reduce bullying. New mothers bring their tiny babies to school once a month for an entire school year. Students observe the baby and try to understand its feelings. Learning to care for a baby helps children develop more compassion. Aggressive children can work through their own feelings by taking the perspective of the baby. Teachers say that the results have been amazing. Children who have been mean to classmates warm up to the babies. Sometimes they even sing to the babies. In fact, children who have been in classrooms with babies still act kinder to classmates three years later.



# Day One

// one minute

## Learning from Babies

### Part 2: First timed read

WPM \_\_\_\_\_

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### Part 3: Comprehension and discussion

Who do bullies pick on?

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What are some schools in Canada doing to reduce bullying?

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## Day One

# Learning from Babies

### Part 4: Phrase-cued reading

- Read the passage **out loud** in phrases to your partner.
- Pause at each / mark for a phrase.
- Also pause at each // mark that shows the end of a sentence.

Jessica nervously scanned the lunchroom. // Even though there were many empty seats, / she knew she wouldn't be able to find a place to eat her lunch. // "This seat is reserved for people who speak real English," / Tasha said menacingly. // She was making fun of Jessica's Spanish accent. //

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I read the passage in phrases out loud to my partner.