

## No New Baby - Reading Guide

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Themes: grief, sibling dies before birth

Lesson/Notes: This story is from a child's perspective when her baby sibling dies before birth. It is important to talk about death, express your feelings, and answer children's questions, so they do not misunderstand or blame themselves. This book has about 80 words per page and has images of baby toys but is not illustrated to tell the story, so it may be a difficult read for 2 - 3-year-olds to stay focused; however, it communicates clearly what children need to know and normalizes their potential confusion, fear, and disappointment. Ideal for older PreK through mid-elementary, it also includes helpful guidelines for parents and grandparents.

*Just like the grandma in the story says, "Nothing you said or did or thought could ever make Baby die. It's nobody's fault. ... It's OK to be sad. We're still a family and we love each other."*

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### Discussion Questions

- *What happened to the baby? (The baby died.)*
- *How does the girl in the story feel about there being no new baby? (There are no wrong answers here; children's answers may reflect their own feelings.)*
- *What did Grandma say about why the baby died?*

### Activity: Observe Flowers

- Visit a nature trail or a plant store together.
- Observe the flowers you find.
  - Note the buds, wilting plants, fallen flowers or petals, and thriving/blooming plants. Point out how the buds are like the ones the grandma talked about in the story.
- As you walk, talk about what you observe, and listen to the child's observations. You may want to share your feelings about the baby, and invite your child to share how (s)he feels.