

#BabyLove: My Toddler Life**Corine Dehghanpisheh****Corine Dehghanpisheh, Illustrator****Paula Riley, Designer**

My Art to Inspire (Sep 20, 2016)

Softcover \$12.95 (40pp)

978-0-9978985-0-7

This light-hearted reflection on social media habits is a great tool for starting discussions with young children.

Corine Dehghanpisheh's *#BabyLove: My Toddler Life* is a visually appealing picture book for young children that uses a toddler's exuberant romp with his mother's cell phone to impart a subtle social-media lesson for parent and child alike. In a world full of devices and electronic connectivity, it's sometimes best to put away the phone and focus on real life.

The story arc is thoughtfully arranged. In the opening pages, the toddler is viewed through the lens of his mother's cell phone camera, and the accompanying text, narrated from the toddler's point of view, is a celebration of the activities his mom is documenting in photo and video.

The tables are turned, though, when the child is left unattended for a moment. He finds his mother's cell phone and starts a selfie spree of his own. The toddler's antics are adorable, and are a believable representation of life in this digital age. The story concludes with dialogue between the mother and child, a conversation that can start only when the phone has been put away.

The story is told in simple, thoughtfully constructed rhymes that are easy to read aloud and that offer opportunities for young children to chime in with the final rhyming word in each stanza. Brightly colored cartoon-style illustrations parallel the narration and offer enough visual cues to make the plot clear. The illustrations, the colorful patterned backgrounds, and the placement of the easy-to-read all-capitalized text reflect a keen attention to design, resulting in an eye-catching offering that will attract both parents and toddlers.

My Toddler Life is a light-hearted reflection on social media habits, and is a great tool for starting discussions with young children.

CAROLYN BAILEY (November 28, 2016)

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