



Edwin Speaks Up

April Stevens , Sophie Blackall (Illustrator)

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Here's a book that will get the whole family laughing, illustrated by the Caldecott Medal winner Sophie Blackall. When a large family of ferrets and their precocious baby take a chaotic trip to the supermarket, mom can't keep track of the groceries, the shopping cart . . . or even the kids! Baby Edwin tries to help, but everyone thinks he's just babbling. Little do they know that he really has all the answers. Full of fun-to-say nonsense words this is a perfect storytime book and a great read-aloud.

Edwin Speaks Up Details

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Author : April Stevens , Sophie Blackall (Illustrator)

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Download and Read Free Online Edwin Speaks Up April Stevens , Sophie Blackall (Illustrator)

From Reader Review Edwin Speaks Up for online ebook

Kelly says

Little Edwin can't quite speak real words yet, but he can babble. That's what the book is basically about. Edwin's mother and his siblings go on a shopping trip and the book follows the trip, but mostly the babbles of Edwin. Curious.

Gabby Maenner says

This book is about a baby who is babbling, but no one seems to listen to what he is saying. His mother goes to the grocery store to get groceries, but also sugar for his birthday cake. All his siblings, and his mother forget to get the sugar and only Edwin remembers it. Throughout the book Edwin is saying nonsense words along with meaningful words that would really help his mother out if only she was hearing what he was saying. A silly misunderstanding for a book, but an important message of listening to young children because what they say is so valuable and often taken for granted because of their age.

Major themes of this book are undervaluing our youth, and miscommunication.

This book reminds me of when my brothers talk louder than me and my parents don't hear what I said. Five minutes later someone will say what I had just said and it can be so frustrating not being heard. I can relate to how little Edwin must have felt, here he is trying to be helpful and no one can hear/understand what he is trying to say.

I would recommend this book be discussed with the notion of listening to younger kids and taking what they have to say to heart. It might not always be the wisest of words, but everyone wants to be heard and I think a lot of times kids get overlooked because we assume they don't know what they are talking about. Everyone looks to our elders for advice, but kids can be just as wise!

Joanna says

Funny!

Sasha says

Cute illustrations (love me some Sophie Blackall) and the concept of a babbling baby as the wisest member of the family, but the execution was a little annoying with all the bickering siblings and the air-head mom. I wasn't mad at it or anything, but I don't enjoy kids who are kind of pieces of doo doo and offer nothing interesting as a trade-off to their horrid, once-dimensional personality. At least be smart, you know?

Angie says

Hmmm. I am not sure what to say about this book.

The idea is funny. Poor little misunderstood baby who if people who just LISTEN to him? He knows what's going on!

But ... all the bickering between the other siblings was more than a little annoying. I don't love this one.

Relyn says

I got this book because I love the work of the illustrator, Sophie Blackall. However, I didn't enjoy it. The story line just didn't grab me. I do think, though, that young children would really enjoy it for read aloud. The situations (grocery shopping, etc.) are familiar and I think they would love hearing a parent do Edwin talking. I'm not sure they would catch the humor on their own, though. The joke is that Edwin is talking but his mother is too distracted to understand him and thinks he's only babbling. If Sloane were about three, I think we might have loved this one.

babyhippoface says

Problems I had with this book:

- 1] That's a ferret?? If you had given me 30 guesses, I would never have come up with "ferret". The mother looks weasley, but the round-headed kids all look like vampire lemurs or something.
- 2] This is one supremely distracted mother and 4 kiddos who are in serious need of some spankings. I was so annoyed by the scatterbrained mother allowing her children to do basically whatever they felt like doing in the grocery store that I couldn't enjoy the book.
- 3] Several of Edwin's "babblings" contain bathroom words. Don't you try to convince yourself that kids won't notice. Because they **will**. Then you'll have to stop reading and wait for them to quit giggling over the fact that this baby *thing* just said "poopy". I'm not completely against bathroom humor, I just was annoyed by the fact that "poop" and "weewee" showed up so often in this toddler's vocabulary.
- 4] It's a little wordy for a picture book.

5] The story just didn't grab me. Not even a little.

Sorry, it just doesn't work for me.

Courtenay says

Cute concept. Having met Ms. Blackall at a writing conference I was eager to see what projects she's been up to. I think I had more fun reading the reviews than the book itself. And I didn't get that these were ferrets (greyhounds, or possums, maybe?) until I read the book jacket "about Sophie Blackall" and spotted the word "ferret." Aha. Funny that parents reviewing this didn't get that the baby was answering questions, that seemed obvious in the way the printing had certain words in all caps. Have to rate this one average. Gives

me hope when I see mixed reviews like this one that my OWN stories will make it...

Beverly says

I giggled all the way through this book. Poor Edwin! No one can understand his baby talk except the reader, who is in no position to help him out.

Treasure says

Picture book by the author of *Waking Up Wendell* and the illustrator of the *Ivy and Bean* series, this book follows a family of ferrets as the frazzled Mrs. Finnemore attempts to go to the grocery store. The kids make quite a ruckus and there is disaster after disaster, but Baby Edwin always saves the day. Baby Edwin babbles while the other kids vie for mom's attention, but readers will quickly realize that Edwin's babbles are full of real words and he is trying to tell his mom something! Kids will enjoy that Edwin can say words like poop and noogie, and parents may find some (uncomfortable) parallels between themselves and the overly busy Mrs. Finnemore who fails to notice that her youngest is talking to her. A solid picture book, but there are better ones out there.

(Reviewed for Puget Sound Council)

Lynn Davidson says

No one understands baby Edwin's babble. If they'd really pay attention they'd see he's trying to tell them important and helpful things. Cute story with sweet illustrations.

Katharina says

I curse the day my three year old chose this book from the library! He wants to read it over and over and it is frankly the worst written book I've ever read! Mrs Finnemore? Fineson's Fine Groceries? Finney? Fiona? Are you for real, guys? It's not fun, it's clunky and annoying. The story itself is not actually that bad, it's the writing that sucks. and the illustrations? Ferrets, huh? I was not aware of that. In fact I hadn't yet determined what the animals in the story were, despite having been subjected to reading this book repeatedly for weeks on end. I got so sick of it I just made up a whole new narrative, I couldn't even attempt to take this one on again! I don't know which editor allowed this pile of rubbish to slip through but yeah, whoever you are, I hope you consider an alternative career as clearly you haven't got the whole editing thing down yet...

Liz Hammet says

Edwin Speaks Up would be a great read aloud for young children ages 3 through 6. The baby of the family, Edwin, gibbers a lot throughout the story. There is a lot of dialogue between the family members. The mom talks about what she needs to do and the older children are fighting back and forth in the grocery store, the

main setting of the story. Edwin, the baby, is frustrated because he can't make out real words and knows that the mom needs sugar at the store but forgets it. He is trying to communicate to the mom, but instead crawls and gets the sugar himself. At the end of the story the mom talks about how Edwin would be talking soon, which would've been nice for Edwin to already have been talking. The images are not the best, but they help to explain what is going on through the story. I thought this book was okay, but I thought it would've been a good read aloud for younger students who have just recently come out of the gibbering stage, because they could relate to that certain type of communication.

Adam says

Not sure the whole point of this story, nor am I sure what Edwin is.

Laura says

Edwin, the littlest ferret in the family, speaks (mostly) in nonsense words. When his family takes a trip to the grocery store, Edwin does his best to make sure they take care of all of their shopping needs.

Recommended for ages 4 - 6, this book is a bit silly. Be aware that Edwin's nonsense talk includes some bathroom humor (poop, weewee). It sort of reminded me of Mo Willem's Trixie and her Aggle Flaggle Klabble. I wouldn't do this story as a whole lesson but it might be a nice follow up to a lesson on Knuffle Bunny: A Cautionary Tale.
