

**Is Your Mama a Llama?**  
*Written by Deborah Gaurino*  
*Illustrated by Steve Kellogg*

**Dear Family Member,**

Part of the fun of childhood comes from guessing games and riddles. This transfers nicely into reading, and *Is Your Mama a Llama?* by Deborah Gaurino is a good introduction to this type of comprehension skill.

**Before you read**, point to the baby llama and owl on the cover and read the title of the book. This is the question the llama is asking the baby owl. Ask your child how he or she thinks the owl will answer.

**As you read**, point out the amusing action in the illustrations to your child. Steve Kellogg is an award-winning artist and the background in the pictures not only shows each animal in its natural habitat but adds to the riddles.

**After you read**, talk about animal babies and their mothers, and how some look like their parents when they are small and some do not.

In the animal kingdom and in the world—particularly your child’s world—family is most important. Remember, you are your child’s first and best teacher.

**Happy Reading!**

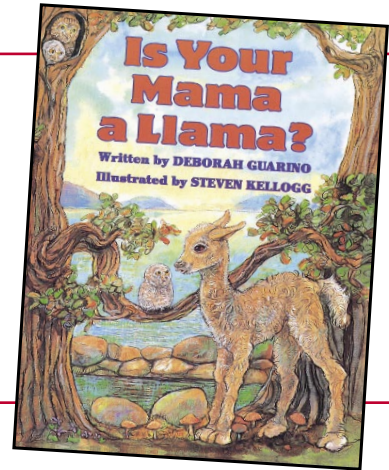


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### BOOK SUMMARY

Lloyd, a baby llama, asks each of his animal friends the same question: "Is your mama a llama?" Your child will enjoy hearing the responses that the animals give.



### Talking Together

**Read the book again.** This time hold the book so your child can see the page with the answer. Tell your child not to tell you what animal is on the page. Then pretend you need more information. Ask questions like, "Does your mama have wings?" or "Does your mama give milk?" Your child will enjoy involving you in the story as well as showing you how smart she or he is.

**With your child, talk about the different ways animals move.** Suggest that your child think of animals that can swim, walk, fly, or hop. Encourage your child to demonstrate how these animals move.

### Doing Things Together

**Your child might like to draw** a picture and write a description about a family member, such as "This is my mother! She has brown eyes and black hair. She works at a store. She lives at my house and takes care of me." You might encourage your child to write about other family members as well.

**Help your child find rhyming words** in the story like say and way, me and be, wings and things. Have your child think of more words that rhyme with these. Then point out words like swan and on, you and too that rhyme but don't have the same spelling. Have your child make up words that rhyme with these as well.

### Reading More Together

**Other great rhyming books are** *Jamberry* by Bruce Degen; *Chicken Soup with Rice* by Maurice Sendak; *Madeline* by Ludwig Bemelmans; *Noisy Nora* by Rosemary Wells; *Sing a Song of Mother Goose* by Barbara Reid; and *Jump Frog, Jump!* By Robert Kalin.