

# Read About How Animals Help Their Babies

## WHY DO ANIMAL HELP THEIR BABIES?

Animal babies are called offspring. Many animals help their offspring survive until they grow strong enough to go off on their own. Parents can feed and protect their offspring.

*To better understand how animals help their babies survive...*

## LET'S BREAK IT DOWN!

### Animal babies can communicate with their parents.

Baby birds chirp to tell their parents that they are hungry. Other baby animals make different noises when they need food. Baby humans cry and puppies whine.



### Some animals help their babies in unusual ways.

Skink babies can eat the poop of their parents. There are good things in the poop that help the offspring stay healthy. When they are older, they eat bugs.

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## Animals can protect their babies from predators.

The American alligator can carry babies in its mouth. The alligator is very careful not to hurt them. This allows the alligator to keep them safe from predators.



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## Some animals have pouches to carry babies.

Kangaroos are called marsupials because they have a special pouch for their babies. The babies are warm and are also protected from danger in their mother's pouch.

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## Many animals produce milk for their babies.

Some baby animals drink their mother's milk until they are big enough to find their own food. The milk gives the baby animals all the nutrients they need to grow.



## VOCABULARY FOR ANIMALS AND THEIR BABIES

**Offspring**

Babies of animals.

**Parents**

The mother and father of an animal.

**Communicate**

To share information.

**Survive**

To stay alive.

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**Needs**

Things required for survival.

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**Protect**

To keep safe.

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## **QUESTIONS ABOUT ANIMALS HELPING THEIR BABIES**

### **What are some ways that animals help their babies survive?**

Animals feed their babies and also protect them. After the babies get a little bigger, the parents might teach their babies how to hunt or hide from predators.

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### **Why do baby animals need help surviving?**

Baby animals need time to grow and get strong. They also need time to learn things about where to get food and how to stay safe from predators.

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### **What are some things that animals do to let their parents know they are hungry?**

Many animals make noise to let their parents know they are hungry. Birds chirp and other animals make whining noises.

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### **Why does a skink eat its parent's poop?**

The skink gets a lot of good bacteria from poop. It helps them stay healthy.

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### **What are some ways the American alligator protects its babies?**

The American alligator carries babies on its back and in its mouth. It also guards the babies and could attack other animals that come near them.

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### **What are some ways a kangaroo cares for its baby?**

Kangaroos feed milk to their babies. They also keep babies warm and safe inside their pouch.

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