Introducing this book to young children:

Before reading *Have You Seen My Duckling*, ask the children if they have ever lost anything. Ask children what they did when they lost something. Tell them about things you have lost and how it made you feel. Then, tell the children that you are going to read a story about a mommy duck that lost one of her babies. Ask the children what they think the mommy duck will do to find her baby. Then read the story to find out!

Place a blanket on the floor with a toy duck in the middle. Sit on the floor in front of the blanket with the infant in your lap. Pointing to the duck say, "Would you like to hold the duck? Let's get the duck. We can grab the blanket and pull. Help me pull the blanket. The duck is coming closer! Keep pulling. Look, you can grab the duck."

Use the story to talk about ducks. Show children pictures and/or videos of different types of ducks and different actions. Play audio of different birds’ sounds. Ask children how it makes them feel. For example, a duck floating on a pond may make us feel calm, but a duck quickly flapping its wings may make us feel nervous or excited. Ask the children, “Does this sound make you happy? relaxed? excited?”

Demonstrate directionality using a toy duck. Place the duck in various places in relation to a child such as next to, behind, or in front of the child. Say the words as you move the bunny. “The bunny is next to Jamari. Now, the bunny is behind Jamari.” Then give the children stuffed toys and encourage them to put the animals in the position you call out.

*Have You Seen My Duckling?*
By Nancy Tafuri

An anxious mother duck loses one of her eight ducklings. Children will giggle as she leads her brood around the pond searching for one missing duckling. However, the little one is not lost, only cleverly concealed on each page. (Ages 1-3)
Repeated readings of the same book provides opportunities for infants and toddlers to develop a sense of competence and confidence. Children learn to point at and label pictures, turn pages, discuss the story, and make predictions of what will happen next, while learning new words and relating the story to their own experiences. Read Have You Seen My Duckling? for several days in a row and use some of the ideas, activities, and teaching opportunities listed below to enhance social and emotional skills.

### GELDS Activity Spotlight

**Music**

Sing or chant Five Little Ducks Went Out to Play. Provide felt board pieces to correspond to the song. Encourage the children to take a duck off the board with each verse, singing and acting it out.

"Five little ducks went out to play
Over the hills and far away.
Mother duck called with quack, quack, quack.
Four little ducks came waddling back."

(Repeat again, but substitute four, three, two and one.) CLL6.2a

**Group Time**

For older toddlers, let one child be the duckling and hide. Everyone else closes their eyes and chants:

“Duckling, duckling swim away.
We will find you in the bay.
Hide behind the table.
Hide behind the chair.
We will find you anywhere.”

Then say, "Duckling, where are you?" and have the children repeat it. The duckling says, "Quack, quack." Keep asking, "Duckling, where are you?" until you have “found” the duckling [child]. When you find the duckling start the game again. Let everyone have a turn to be the duckling and hide.

For infants or younger toddlers, you can hide a toy duck. Encourage them to look for it while modeling and saying “where is duckling? When they find the animal, say “here’s the duck”. CD-CP1.1b

**Blocks**

Put family pictures on soft blocks. Wrap each block in clear contact paper. Encourage the infant to look at, reach for or touch the blocks. While pointing at pictures use prompts such as, “Look at Mommy,” or “Where’s Grandpa?” Wait a few seconds, giving the infant time to respond. APL3.1d

### Focus on Family

Encourage families to sing a song that contains child’s name, to the tune of “Where is Thumbkin?”

Where is Carson? (Where is Mommy (etc.)?)
There you are! (Here I am!)

Look for the child to respond by looking, smiling, or turning his/her head. CLL2.0a