

From School Library JournalreSchool-Grade 2--A nearly rhyming text buoyantly proves that Baby Knows Best. For this bubbling baby girl, keys are more fun than toys; newspapers more satisfying than books; a bath plug more engaging than tub toys; a birthday suit more comfortable than any clothes; and cuddles superior to stroller, bouncer, or playpen. In the midst of an inviting clutter and a welcoming family, this little miss enjoys the bliss of infancy in a loving home. Both Dad and Brother are active participants in the nurturing. Even the dog helps out, cleaning up spilled food. A pleasing verse is flawed by occasional mismatches: bells with well, stuff with us. Still, the target audience will be so enchanted with Baby that they won't mind a rough rhyme, and the beaming, cartoon illustrations are sure to delight. The result is a winning read-aloud for parent and child, sibling to sibling, or teacher to class, and a gem for toddler and preschool collections.

Jody McCoy, The Bush School, Seattle, WA
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From BooklistPreS.-Gr. 1. Henderson playfully pokes fun at eager parents who shower their children with elaborate playthings only to discover that their little ones are more interested in the ordinary. The baby girl featured in the story is given toys that sing, rattle, whistle, and squeak. "And what does she want to play with? The front door keys." It's the same story with the books (she prefers the newspaper) and the bath toys (she prefers the bathtub plug), and the clothes (she prefers none!). The sweet ending shows baby rejecting carriage, stroller, and crib in favor of snuggling up with her family. The rhyming text is short and fun, and Granstrom's colorful watercolor illustrations get the point across nicely by contrasting busy scenes overflowing with stimulating objects with pictures of the simpler playthings baby chooses. Preschoolers with a new baby in the house will find this especially amusing.

Lauren Peterson
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About the Author
Author Kathy Henderson has written and illustrated many superb books for children, including Fifteen Ways to go to Bed (shortlisted for the Smarties Award), The Little Boat (illustrated by Patrick Benson) which won the Kurt Maschler Award, and The Storm (shortlisted for the Kate Greenaway Award 2000). Kathy has three children. Author lives: North London