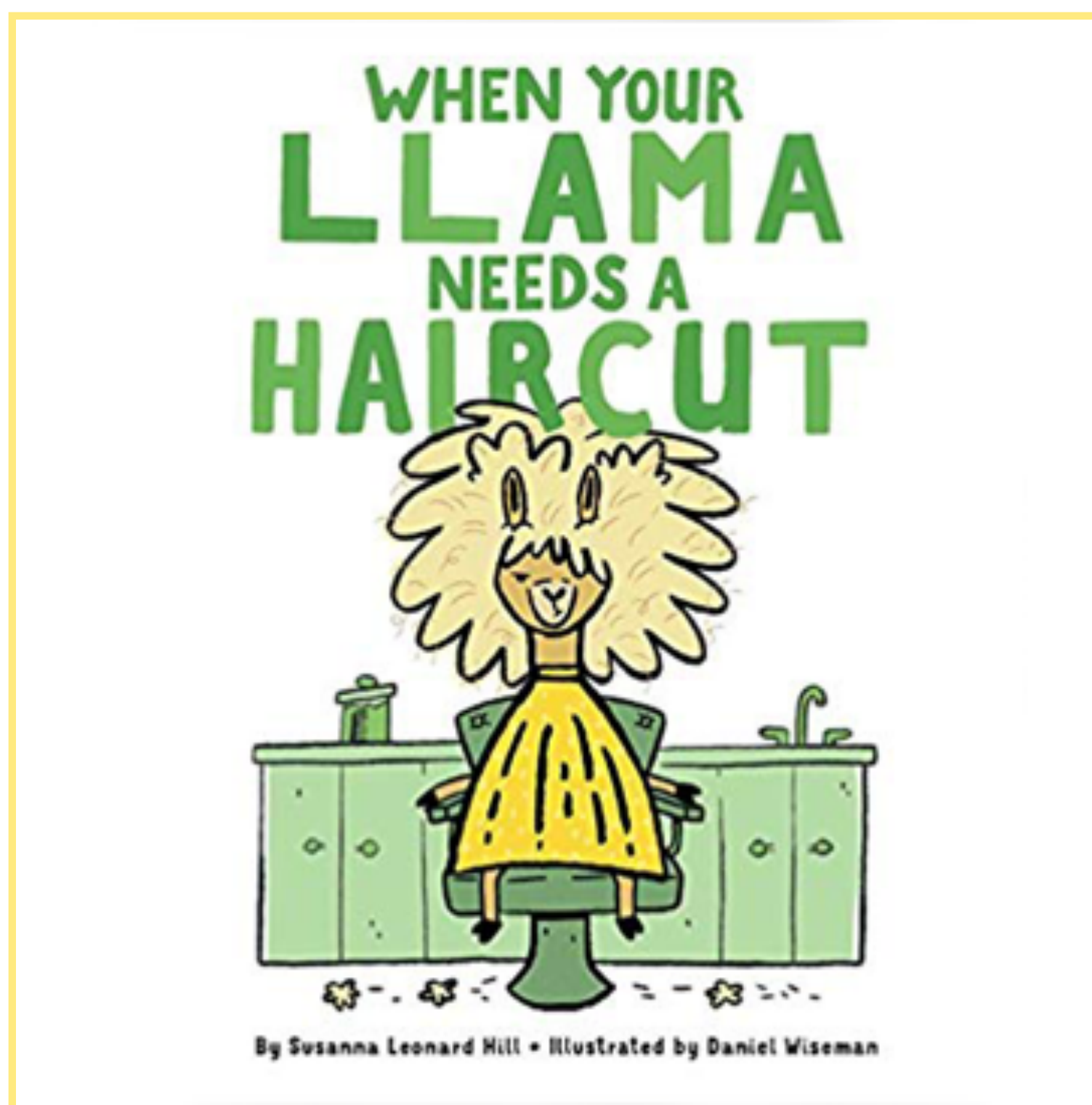


# When Your Llama Needs a Haircut

## An Activity Guide



**How to Use This Guide:** This activity guide for *When Your Llama Needs a Haircut* is designed for parents and caretakers of infants, toddlers, preschool, and kindergarten children. It is assumed that the parents and caretakers will adapt each activity to fit the needs and abilities of their own children.

# About the Author



Hello!

As an author and the mother of five, it will come as no surprise that the **When Your...** series was written from personal experience. Like many of you, I have one who won't bathe, one who hates haircuts (okay, more than one!) and no one likes getting the sniffles or going to bed! Surely, there is a way to get our little ones to see reason and cooperate!

With the **When Your...** series, my goal is to help put some fun into experiences that little ones sometimes find objectionable while simultaneously demonstrating strategies that parents and caregivers can use.

## How can I encourage my child to cooperate when we need to do something s/he doesn't like?

Children have very little control over daily events and routines. Giving them a choice of two options, either of which you will be happy with, allows them a small measure of empowerment.

For example: Would you like to take your bath before dinner, or after dinner?

Make it fun. Nothing makes a bath more appealing than bubbles, toys, or bath crayons. A sick day can be brightened with games and stories. Bedtime is story time and snuggle time.

Children often have fears which may seem irrational to adults. But children do not have the experience or perspective to understand things adults take for granted. Getting their hair cut, or wondering what might be in the darkness under the bed can be truly frightening. Giving your child the opportunity to "practice" something that scares her/him by trying it out on a stuffed animal, or by working up to it in small stages may help him/her conquer those fears.

For example:

**Show** – using a doll or stuffed animal, show your child each step of whatever experience or situation s/he is worried about. Then let your child practice it on the doll.

**Talk** – describe what you're doing as you're doing it so your child is prepared and understands.

**Sing** – make up silly songs or rhymes about things your child doesn't like or is afraid of so they feel more fun and less threatening.

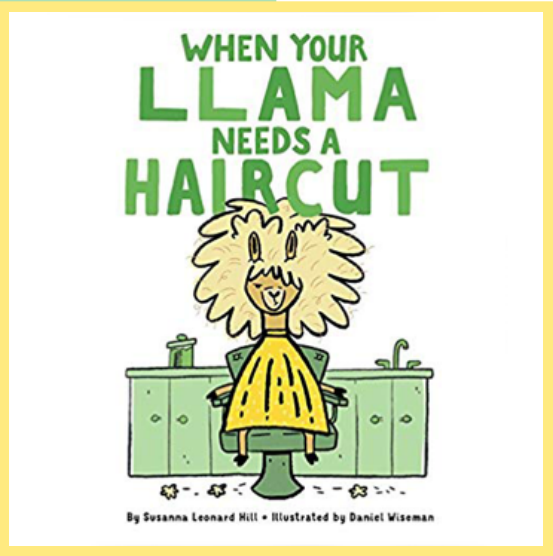
**Discuss and share** – feelings. It's okay to worry. It's okay to dislike an activity or situation. Discuss what might be done to make it better.

Most importantly, your love, support, and understanding will help them over those rough spots until they're able to navigate on their own.

Susanna Leonard Hill, Author  
M.A., M.Ed. Counseling Psychology



# Infant (0-1 Year)



Infants love to hear your voice, and it's never too early to begin reading together! At this stage, a book is less about the story and more about the tone of your voice, the rhythm of your speech and the visual stimulation of the pictures.

## What Do We See?

Point to the illustrations on each page as you read, naming the objects and colors.

For example:

<u>Animals</u>	<u>Shapes</u>	<u>Colors</u>	<u>Objects</u>
Llama	Circle	Yellow	Hose
Elephant	Square	Blue	Mirror
Lion	Triangle	Orange	Table
Penguin	Rectangle	Green	Scissors
Bumblebee		Red	Flowers



## The Happy Llama Song

Play a hand chant game. The llama is made by putting up the baby finger and pointer finger only and holding the other two fingers down with the thumb.



Happy Llama	<i>upright llama</i>
Sad Llama	<i>point downward</i>
Totally rad llama.	<i>shake llama back and forth</i>
Super Llama	<i>swoop llama upward</i>
Drama Llama	<i>llama with each hand and have them kiss</i>
Big fat monster llama	<i>join two llamas together by putting down the two pointer fingers</i>
Moose	<i>open hands on head for antlers</i>
Alpaca	<i>close hands on head for ears</i>
Moose, moose	<i>repeat antler hands</i>
Alpaca.	<i>repeat ear hands</i>

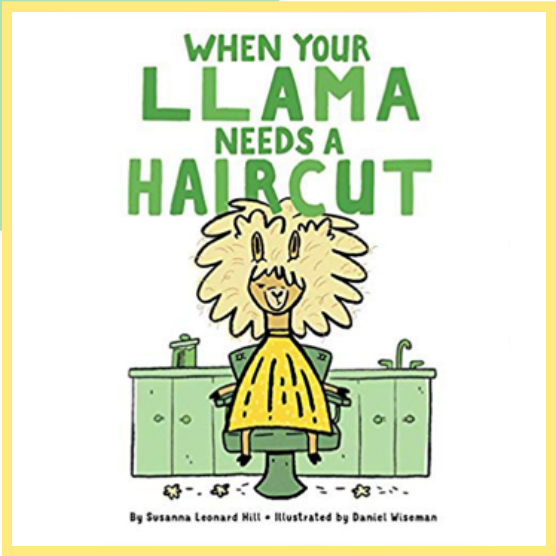
## Llama Drama!

Hold up the book and ask, "Where's the llama?"  
Point to a picture of the llama. "There's the llama!"  
Then, cover the picture with a small blanket or burp cloth. Ask, "Where's the llama?"  
Uncover the picture and say, "There's the llama!"

Identify the parts of llama's body, including:	Eyes	Hand	Hair	Mouth
	Nose	Feet	Ears	Smile



# Toddler (1-2 Years)



Many toddlers are ready to take a more active role in story time. They can repeat words, count along with you, and begin to identify shapes and colors.

## Reading Comprehension

As you read, ask, “Where is the...?”  
Your toddler can respond by pointing to the correct illustration.

Practice more shape and color recognition. Say, “I spy something \_\_\_\_\_” The blank can be filled with any color or shape on the page. The child can then guess what you spy.

## Counting Through the Book

Read through the book, counting as you go.  
“How many llamas do you see?”  
“Let’s count the feet.”  
“Can you count the flowers?”  
“Count the things that are blue.”

## Act It Out!

Every time you read the following “command” words, your child can perform the action.

### Command

### Action

Llama	Place your two pointer fingers on each side of your head like ears and make buck teeth
Haircut	Make scissors with your fingers and say “snip snip!”
Hair	Run your fingers through your hair

## Create a Rainbow Wig

Together, create a crazy rainbow wig, like the llama’s hair in *When Your Llama Needs a Haircut*.

Attach rainbow-colored crepe paper streamers to a paper plate. Cover the entire plate and allow the streamers to hang down at any length. Then, when the plate is finished and the hairstyle is complete, add a string to use as a chin strap and place the paper wig on top of your child’s head.

## Animals

Llama  
Elephant  
Lion  
Penguin  
Bumblebe

## Shapes

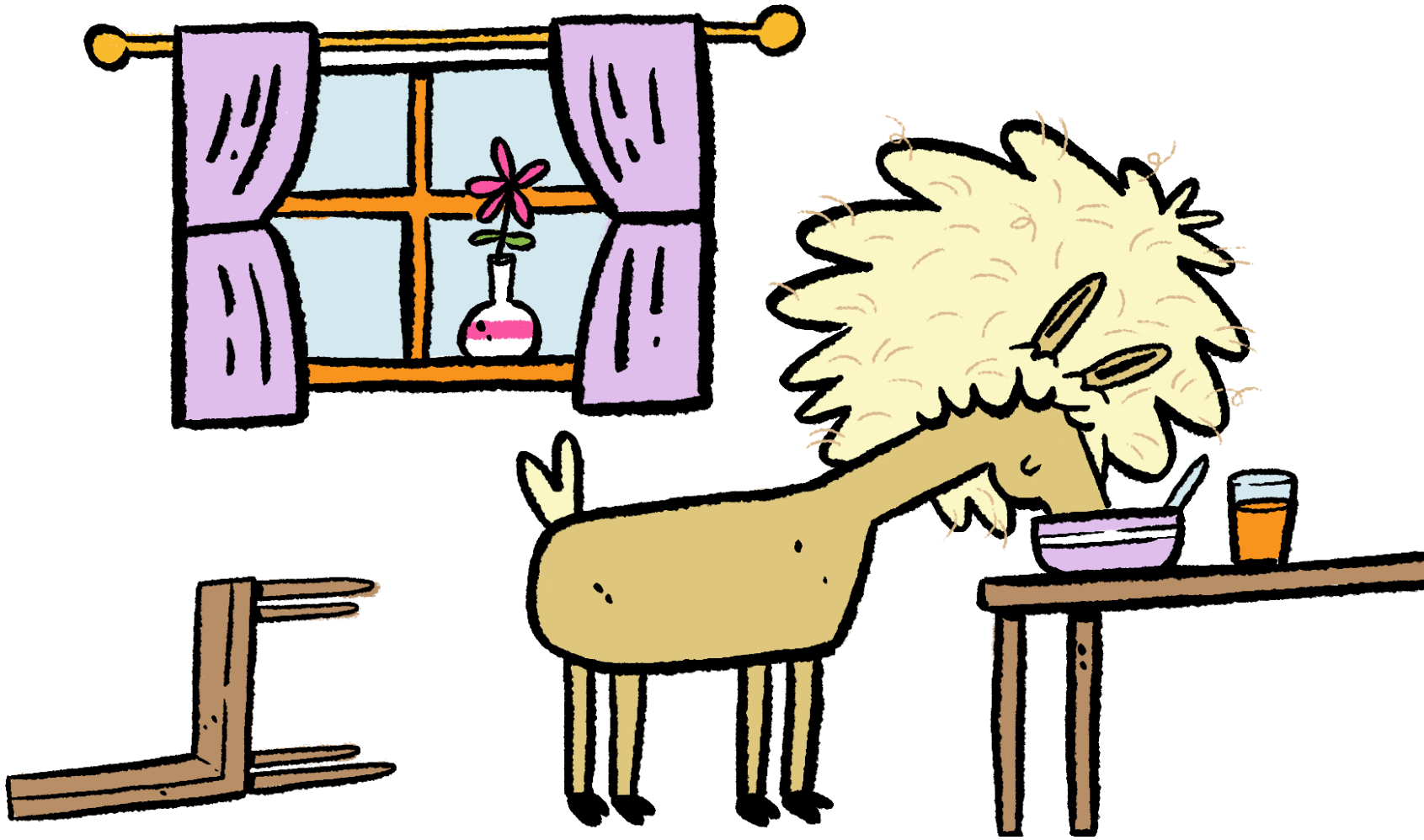
Circle  
Square  
Triangle  
Rectangle

## Colors

Yellow  
Blue  
Orange  
Green  
Red

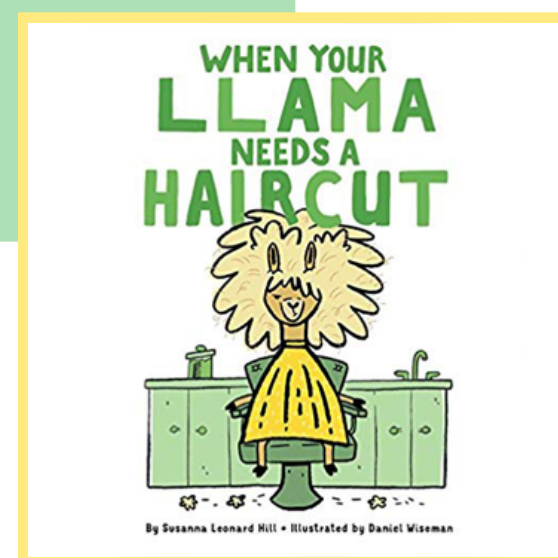
## Objects

Hose  
Mirror  
Table  
Scissors  
Flowers





# Preschool/Kindergarten (3-5 Years)



## Reading Comprehension

Ask questions throughout the exploration of the book. Encourage your preschooler to help tell the story.

- “The llama needs a haircut. Why does the llama need a haircut? Have you ever had a haircut? What do you remember about your haircut?”
- “The llama has a lot of choices of what kind of haircut to get? Which is your favorite? If you could get a different haircut what would you want?”



## Time to Get a Haircut

Kids need to practice their scissor skills and this is a fun activity for just that.

1. Draw a face on a paper plate.
2. Flip over the plate and tape feathers and yarn and string onto the plate to represent a lot of hair.
3. Then, using scissors, practice trimming the hair.

## A Picture Walk

After reading *When Your Llama Needs a Haircut*, encourage children to re-read the book using the pictures as clues.

Look at the cover and assist your child in describing what they see in the picture. For example, “in this picture, I see a llama with lots of hair. He is sitting in a hair salon chair.”

Now, open to the first page of the story and help your child describe what is happening on this page. Encourage speaking in full sentences and giving as many details as possible, referring to the characters, the setting, and the story events. Continue in this manner, through the rest of the book.

## Llama Has Style!

Draw a llama face on a piece of paper.

Then, using craft supplies such as markers, crayons, cotton balls, yarn, glitter, etc. create a hairstyle for llama.

