

# A Baby Elephant in the Wild

## A RIF GUIDE FOR PARENTS AND FAMILIES

**Themes:** Nature, Survival, Family

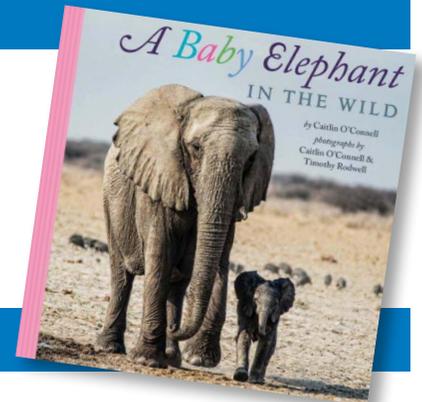
**Book Brief:** Liza is a baby elephant born in the Namibian desert. Travel with Liza and her family as they search for food and water. The stunning photographs will make you feel like part of the herd!

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**Photographers:**

Caitlin O’Connell and  
Timothy Rodwell



## TIME TO READ!

**Before reading, build**

**background:** What does your child know about elephants? Where do they live? What do they eat? How do they communicate?

What kinds of activities does Liza enjoy that you might enjoy? How does your family help you?

**After reading, ask questions:**

- ◆ Why was it important for Liza to stay close to her family members?
- ◆ What are the biggest dangers Liza and other elephants face?

**While reading, make connections:** Does Liza’s mother remind you of one of your family members?

## RELATED ACTIVITIES

### ELEPHANT TREATS

Ingredients: uncooked canned biscuits

Use dough from one of the biscuits to make 2 large ears and a long trunk. Stick the pieces onto another biscuit to make a dough elephant. Repeat until all dough has been used. Bake at 350\* for 17 minutes. When cool, slice the biscuit in half and enjoy with butter or jam.

### DESERT MYSTERY BOX

Materials: shoebox, mystery items (suggested items include a spiky rubber ball [cactus], silk flower [desert flower], rocks, small bag of sand)

Make a mystery box for your child to practice using their sense of touch. Cut a hole at each end of a shoebox. Put one “desert item” inside. Let your child reach inside, use adjectives to describe what they feel, and guess the object. Afterwards, open the lid

and see if the guesses were correct. After each object is revealed, talk about its connection to the desert.

### WORTH A THOUSAND WORDS

Materials: digital/cell phone camera and computer access OR old magazines, scissors, paper, and glue

Tell the story of a day in your life using pictures. Take pictures of yourself and your daily activities on a digital camera or cell phone. Go to [www.storyjumper.com](http://www.storyjumper.com) and upload the pictures into a free, online book about your life! Add text to explain what a day in your world is like. You can also make a paper book and illustrate it using old photographs or pictures cut out of a magazine. Don’t forget a title!

### TECHNOLOGY LINK

Visit [www.elephants.com/elecarn/](http://www.elephants.com/elecarn/) to watch live elephants in action!

## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

### OTHER BOOKS ABOUT ELEPHANTS

*Tarra & Bella: The Elephant and Dog Who Became Best Friends*, Carol Buckley (2014), *Amazing Animals: Elephants*, Kate Riggs (2011), *Great Migrations: Elephants*, Laura Marsh (2011).



Reading Is  
Fundamental