



Speaking for the Baby Campaign

We love advocating for babies.

At the *Centre for Perinatal Psychology*, we help parents 'see' their baby with fresh eyes, and understand how their baby communicates.

Babies have their own language and ways of communicating and it's up to us to read them. Some babies are clear and easy to understand and some babies need more patient decoding!

One of things we love doing and encourage parents to do, is to *curiously wonder* about what is going on inside for their baby. We like to wonder about their minds – what they might be sensing, feeling, thinking, wanting, needing, experiencing. And if we were to put that into words, well, we'd be 'speaking for the baby'!

IN the voice of
the INFANT

Speaking for the
Baby Campaign.

Putting Words on the
Infant's Experience.



Created by Bronwyn Leigh,
illustrated by Jess Racklyeft
for the Centre for Perinatal
Psychology.

The idea of speaking for the baby came from another baby-devotee, an American psychoanalyst and social worker, Selma Fraiberg. When working with parents and babies she found that putting words on what the baby might be experiencing helped parents orient *their* minds to their *baby's* mind. This helped them understand, get-to-know and enjoy their babies more.

So here we are, decades later with our attempt to put words on the infant's experience: To think about babies and how they might experience being in the world. Our *Speaking for the Baby Campaign* is a series of illustrations bringing voice to the infant's experience, along with downloadable handouts with description around the illustrations. These are resources that can be widely shared, but they must remain in original form and maintain our *Centre for Perinatal Psychology* logo. We think this campaign might be helpful for parents and the professionals involved in parent and infant care – and ultimately for babies! We are creating this with the help of the supremely talented Jess Racklyeft, a Melbourne-based illustrator who has beautifully brought our ideas to life.

We recognise that while babies are very vulnerable and needy, they also have great capacities. They speak to us in so many ways – listen out and you'll hear...

