

Tuula Lindgren

Read With The Child

Draba kentoha

Ame sam
kaalengo
huupa



**A Guide for Roma parents
on language skills development
of the children**





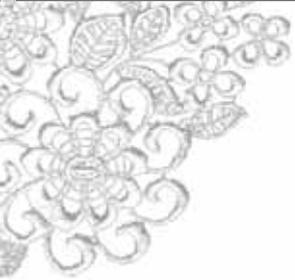
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Read With The Child

A Guide for Roma parents on language skills development of the children

Tuula Lindgren





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Foreword

Dear Roma parents,

This guide is written especially for you. It gives you information about language skills development of children under 7 years of age. It is also good to take into account that language skills and motor skills develop together.

This guide consists of two parts. The illustrated Romani language pages you can watch together with your child and explain the pictures in Romani language. Pages for the parents give you guidelines on language skills development of children and advice on how to support it.

Parents and relatives share the common responsibility for bringing up children. There are many ways how men in Roma families can also take part in raising children. Grandparents have important role in transferring, not only the habits and way of living but also the Romani language to the younger generation, and especially to their grandchildren. This makes the cultural identity of Roma children stronger and gender gap smaller.

More information about the growth and development of children can be found in the brochures available in child health care centres and in the literature published on the subject.

Tuula Lindgren and Päivi Majaniemi





Language Skills Development Of Children

0-3 months

Baby does not understand speech yet but he understands the tone of voice. He can sense the mood of the person taking care of him and he can also respond to it. Baby enjoys hearing human voice, people talking and singing. Baby uses crying to tell that he is hungry, tired or in pain.

3-6 months

Baby is babbling: dada, nana. He learns to contact people by babbling. He laughs and screams and is happy when he hears human voice. The baby's ability to understand what is spoken language develops in a short time. A baby-of-6-months notices the characteristics of his own mother tongue and he does not respond to other languages.

Top Tips:

- ✦ **Set yourself in the same mood with the baby; use the soft and peaceful tone of voice when the baby is sleepy and brisker tone when the baby is wide-awake.**
- ✦ **Talk to your baby and tell him what you are doing to him.**
- ✦ **Caress the baby and talk to him softly, it makes him feel secure.**
- ✦ **As early as at three months you can make the baby sleep longer periods at night when you talk to him and keep him active during the day.**
- ✦ **Respond to baby's talk. This way he learns that he can contact other people by using his voice.**
- ✦ **Remember that there is always a reason when baby cries. The quicker you respond to his crying, the more easily he calms down. Remember to ask help if you cannot stand baby's crying.**
- ✦ **If there are other children in your family, please remember to pay attention and use soft tone of voice also to them. This is one way of avoiding older children becoming jealous.**
- ✦ **Let the baby touch and taste books too.**

Koon me som?
Koon tu sal?

Savo ħlaaga tu sal?
Me som loħano.

Me som besko tšau.





6–12 Months

A baby-of-6-months recognises his name. He senses the tone of speech and may react very strongly to different voices.

A baby of 7-9 months of age may have stranger anxiety.

Child understands that we use our voice to communicate. He uses his voice in many ways and interactively. Baby listens to his own voice in wonder. He can also copy and repeat what he hears.

Baby can look at a picture book with an adult.

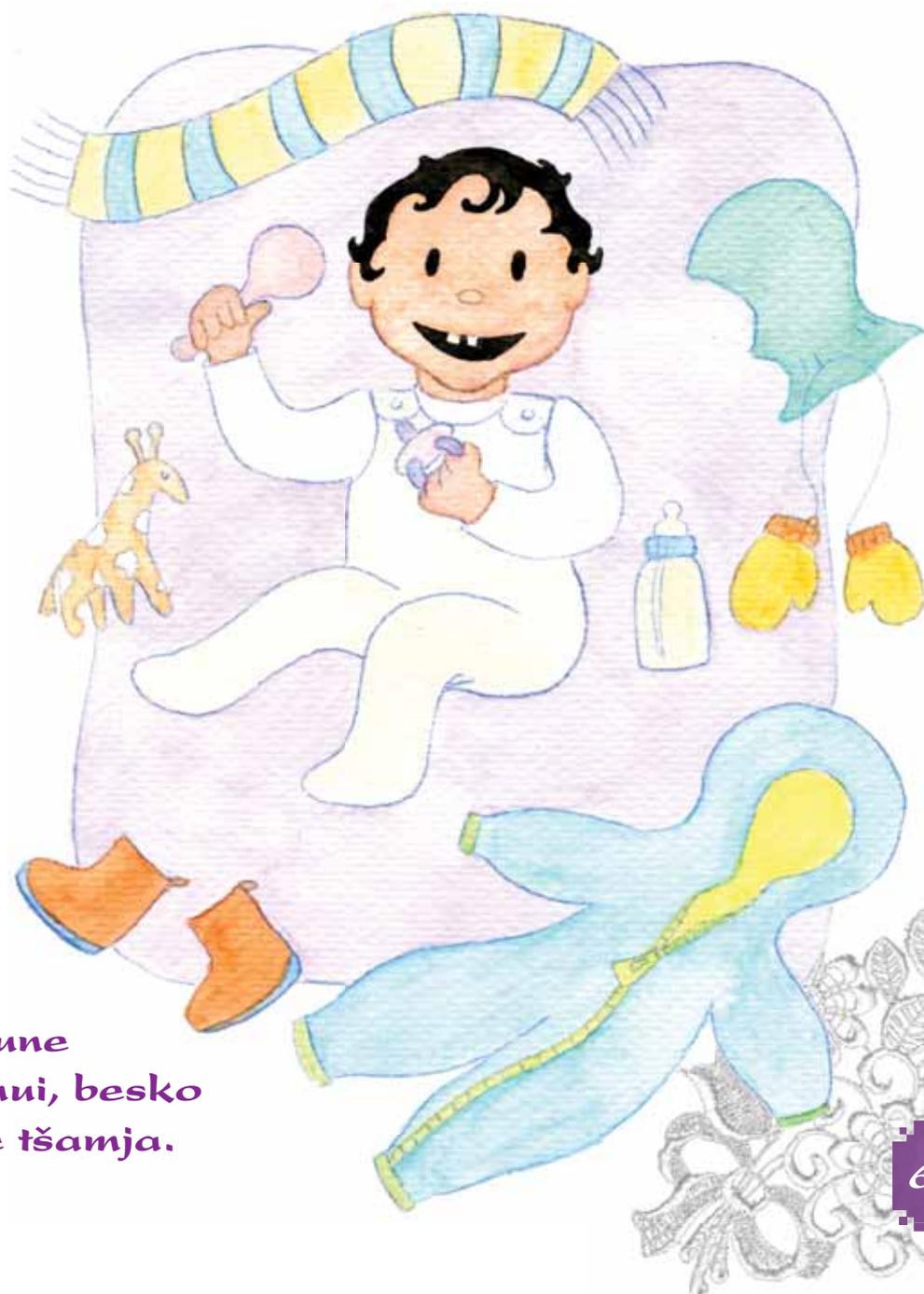
Motor skills development of a child at this age is fast: he learns how to crawl, how to sit –supported at first, how to crawl on his knees, how to stand and eventually how to walk.

Baby wants to eat by himself.

Top Tips:

- ✧ **Talk to your baby. Tell what will happen soon: "Soon we will go out."**
- ✧ **Use nursery rhymes and the little plays connected to those, for example, 'Incy wincy spider' or 'The wheels on the bus go round and round'.**
- ✧ **Tell what happens in the books, ask him questions about the pictures: "Here is a girl. Where is the boy?"**
- ✧ **Give names to different items and use correct terms when you describe your household facilities and objects. "Here's Tino's shoe. Here is a chair."**
- ✧ **Keep the toys clean as children put them in their mouth in order to find out what the toys are and what they feel like.**
- ✧ **Let the baby practise how to eat with his own spoon – despite the mess it makes. Remember that fine motor skills develop early on.**

Daala hin
mango koola



Maan hin dui
beska vaste,
dui piere, bruune
jakha, loolo mui, besko
nak ta phesse tšamja.

6-12



1-year-old

A child learns to express himself by talking. One-year-old needs to have an adult near him, within talking distance in order to feel himself secure. He needs to have an adult close to him also to tell him what he is allowed to do and also to stand his temper tantrums.

Peaceful moments together with his own family are important to child.

Child's ego develops by interacting with other people. Remember to pay attention to him and approve of him, praise and thank him. Positive feedback is very important.

Older than 1-year-olds start recognising their feelings but with help from adults. Adults are needed to acknowledge and to tell the child what the feelings are.

1-year-old can already follow some short directions, dos and don'ts. With clear rules on what he can and cannot do he learns what is allowed and what is not.

Top Tips:

- ✂ Take the child in your lap and read children's books to him. Tell and ask him what happens in the pictures. Let the child tell and ask at his own pace.
- ✂ Ask the child to point out different parts of his body and ask "Where is your mouth? Where is your nose?"
- ✂ Try to stay calm when he is throwing tantrums. Being angry expresses disappointment and failure. It is adult's duty to calm the child down and comfort him.
- ✂ Be flexible but decisive when setting rules for your child.
- ✂ A child needs to have a clear set pattern in daily schedule that includes sufficiently caring, resting, playing and being outdoors. Playing as well as own dear toys are very important to children very early on. Playing is a way of learning for children.
- ✂ Remember to take care of your own well being too.

So me tšeeraa?
Me ħaa kokares roijaha.

Me piivaa kokares
thundesko khoodo.

Me ħaa briija.

kentosko
ħaħibosko
khoodo





2-year-old

A child is interested in adults talking. By listening and copying it he learns to talk and understand how speech is used in different occasions. Child listens and copies for example his family members talk. He understands more speech and words than what he can use himself.

A child learns what kind of objects he sees – if they are big or small.

His own will starts to show. He starts to be keen to stand up to his rights: “Me, myself, mine” There might be quarrels amongst friends over some toys. However, playing is very important to child’s development.

Routines and rules make life easier. Certain same routine makes going to bed and sleep easier.

Top Tips:

- ✦ **Encourage your child to speak. Praise and encourage!**
- ✦ **Don’t try to hurry him. Every child develops at his own pace. Potty training and learning to be without nappies will also succeed when the child is ready for it.**
- ✦ **Play and use nursery rhymes with the child. Little children don’t need television; their own family’s company is enough for them.**
- ✦ **You could play Give-and-take -games with the child so that it will be easier for him to lend his toys to his friends.**
- ✦ **Give clear instructions: “Come and eat your lunch.”**
- ✦ **Talk clearly and friendly to your child. If you get angry, do control yourself. Shouting and threatening will diminish child’s feeling of security. Nevertheless, be very consistent with your rules and regulations. When necessary, take your child in your arms and calm him down.**
- ✦ **A bedtime story or prayer will create feeling of security. When a child learns to fall asleep in his own bed, parents will have more time to spend together.**

Förji elle rangli

Savo rangla hin kham?
Kham hin dželto.





3-year-old

At this age your child has plenty to ask and to talk about. He may keep asking: “What? Why? Where?” By answering his questions you give him a possibility to learn new and be encouraged to talk. By doing so you also show that he is important to you.

Child sees colours, sizes, shapes, similarities and differences. He needs an adult to verify that his observations are right.

His imagination runs wild, he can also tell what happens in his favourite fairytales.

Child may be scared at nights. Unlimited access to television may add his fears.

Top Tips:

- ✂ Give your child time to explain what he has in his mind. It boosts his self-confidence and wish to communicate with others.
- ✂ Ask your child to help you with little household duties and advice and instruct him in those.
- ✂ Watch the picture books together with him. Find similarities in those.
- ✂ Read his favourite stories again.
- ✂ Let the child draw and do easy handicraft works, motor skills develop by practising them.
- ✂ Remember to give reasons to the don'ts you give your child.
- ✂ Don't ignore your child's feelings.
- ✂ Remember to guide your child's TV watching.



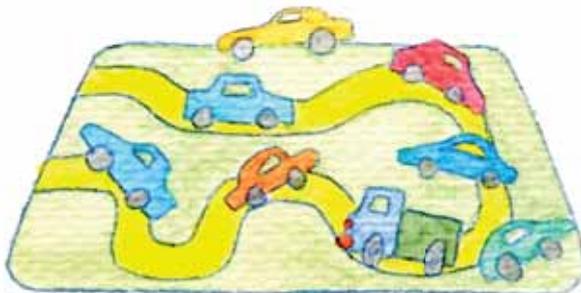
Sar buut?
Jek ta buut



iek phersibosko ritš



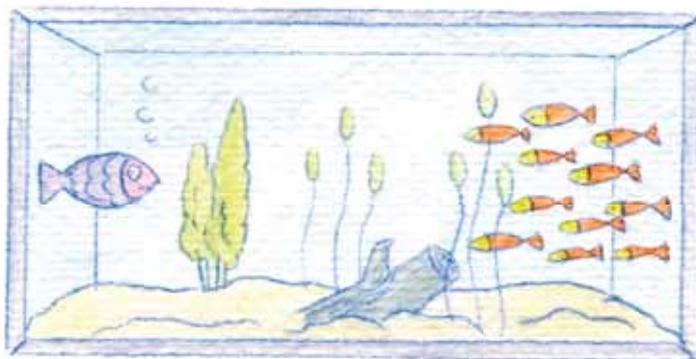
buut phersibosko ritša



buut fäardyja



iek fäardy



iek matšo

buut matše





4-year-old

At four the child compares himself with other children. He can talk about himself and what he does in a positive manner, if he has got an example to do so from his family.

Child has his own opinions and he wishes to express those. A child in a temper tantrum practises and tries out his own will in different situations. It is parents' duty to set certain rules and limits –with love.

Child is interested about numbers and quantities. He knows the order from smallest to biggest and can make a difference between different days: yesterday and today.

He knows the different locations: what does behind and front mean. Also the idea of movement, for example up and down is familiar to him.

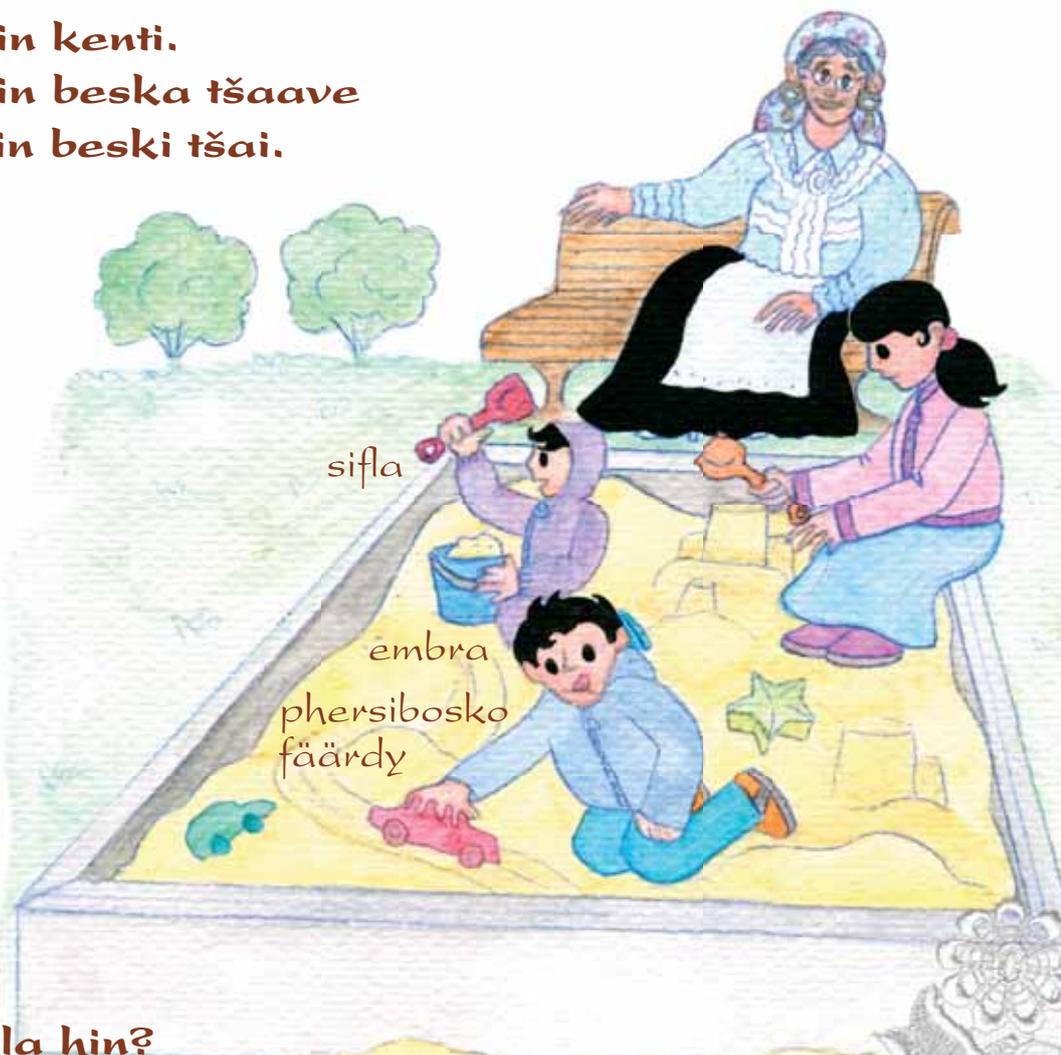
A child likes to repeat the nursery rhymes and poems he knows. He develops his language skills by practising speaking with adults.

Top Tips:

- ✧ **Have one-to-one time with your child. Reading fairytales, stories and talking with your child develop his thinking.**
- ✧ **Develop his vocabulary and memory by teaching him poems and nursery rhymes.**
- ✧ **Give answers only to what your child has asked, don't give too complicated answers.**
- ✧ **Set a limit to how much your child is allowed to watch television. Remember that not all the programs are suitable for young children.**
- ✧ **The eldest children could read to younger ones, it makes the children feel closer.**
- ✧ **Give your child easy choices: "Will you take the blue or the red shirt?" This is how children learn to make decisions.**

Koon joon hin?

Joon hin kenti.
Joon hin beska tšaave
ta joi hin beski tšai.



So daala hin?
Daala hin mango pherji.



5-year-old

Child's ego is developed by interacting with others.

A child wants to be respected. Other persons' opinions affect his self-confidence.

At this age a child can talk fluently. He wants to talk about himself and his matters and what has happened to him during the day.

Written language starts to interest him. He prefers the text that is read to him, most of all the fairytales.

Child wants to help with household tasks.

A child likes to move about and is very good in it already.

Friends are very important.

Top Tips:

- ⌘ **Talk to your child. Listen, thank and praise him. Be interested in his opinions and what he thinks.**
- ⌘ **Try to understand child's curiosity and all the questions he has.**
- ⌘ **Read to your child. Wait until the child is interested in written text. Teach him letters and how to write those, start with his own name first. But remember not to force him to do that.**
- ⌘ **Let the child take part in household tasks as much as he is able to. Together with an adult he will manage cleaning his own room and tidying up after playing.**
- ⌘ **Make sure there is enough time and room for him to play.**
- ⌘ **Let him practise different forms of exercising and make sure he spends enough time outdoors.**



So joi tšeerela?

Joi rannela.

So jou
tšeerela?
Jou dikkela
farabi.





6-year-old

At the age of six a child is very eager to practise different skills he has and also to acquire new ones.

Learning alphabets, numbers, reading and counting are of interest to him.

Fine motor skills develop well. He is interested in writing.

Exercising is very important to him.

Child is very sociable; he wants to learn new skills by practising together with other children.

A six-year-old practises new skills eagerly but at times he also wishes to be a little child.

Top Tips:

- ✧ **Be interested in the skills your child has acquired. Give positive feedback on the tasks he has managed to do.**
- ✧ **Remember that for a child the parent's lap is still the best and the safest place to be.**
- ✧ **Give him a chance to take part in different hobbies; to draw and do some handicrafts work.**
- ✧ **Give your child a possibility to take part in the pre-school education.**
- ✧ **Help your child to develop in exercising.**

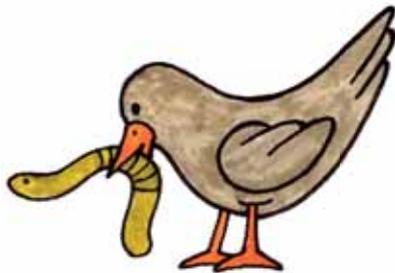
De mange



De džukleske kokalos.



De maħkareske matšo.



De tširikjake tšerme.



De greske ĥas.



Pre-school Education

Municipalities have a responsibility to arrange pre-school education to all six-year-olds in Finland.

It is good for the child to learn numbers, letters and even to read or write in the pre-school group.

It offers Roma children, possibly their first chance to get to know the main culture and children from it, in which case the culture shock of the first school year will be smaller. Also children from the main culture have a chance to get to know Roma children and their culture.

During the pre-school year a child has a chance to get to know friends and how to behave in a group of children. All these skills will make it easier for the child to start school. Positive pre-school and first school year experiences will make it easier for the Roma children to take part in the education and possibly also in further studies.

Make sure your child goes to day-care and to pre-school regularly. Give your child a chance to grow up and develop – also his language skills.

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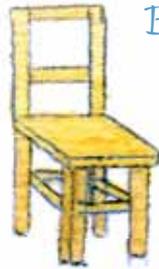
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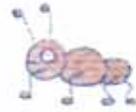
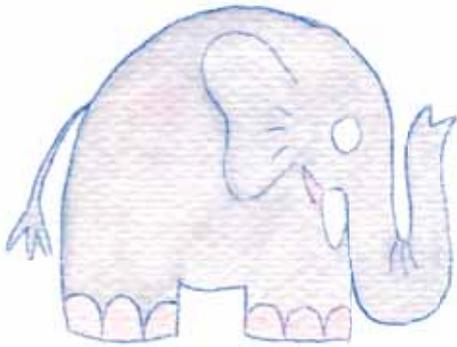
Baro ta besko



Besko ta baro skammi.



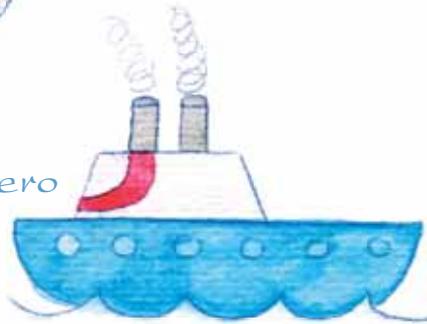
Soske elefantos hin baro?



Soske tširi hin besko?



panjako beero



Pre-school





Golden Rules On Bringing Up Children

Use nice words and appropriate style when you speak to children, also when you speak about other people. Children do not stand adults' ridicule.

Remember to set a good example by your own behaviour and the way you speak.

Acknowledge different emotions of your children: "I think that you are tired now."

Remember that no child is vicious on purpose – there are many ways they will try to attract adult's attention.

Remember to listen – children too have something to tell you.

Encourage your child to express himself verbally.

Children need their parents to set limits for them. Love and limits go hand in hand. Remember also your own limits.

Praise and encourage. That way you can help your children in developing good self-esteem.

Remember that your child is a unique little person. He needs his parents to love and bring him up and to guide him in his life.

Savo tiija tu
baadaveha?

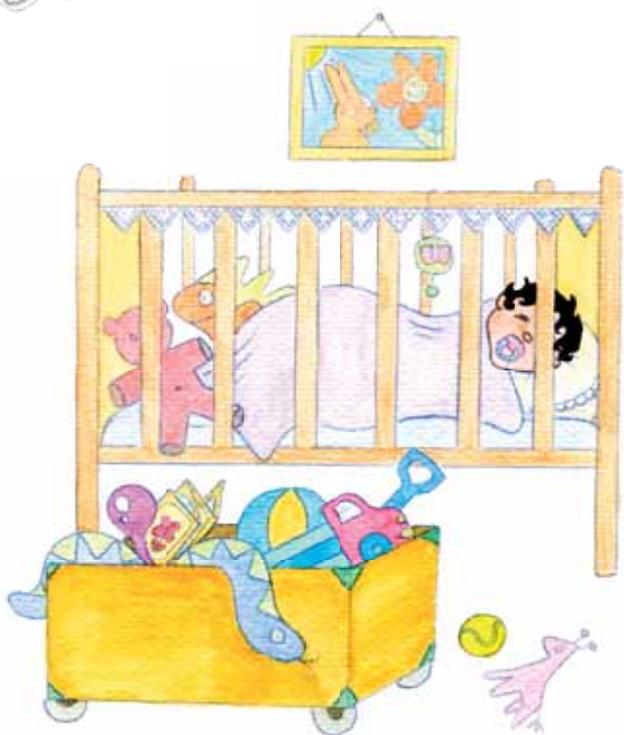
Savo ħlaaga me som?



Me som loħano
mulano
rouvalo.



Prayers And Nursery Rhymes



*Savo tiija
tu souveha?*

*Tšihko
rassako tiija!*

My little baby, a rosebud,
stardust, fresh new snow.
Sound of cries, bite of frost
and stormy skies.
Love too great to
understand or know.
Soon you'll grow and fly away,
but close to my heart forever
you'll stay.

Heavenly Father now that
the night has come, all the
work and play are done.
This has been a wonderful day,
and now I come to you and pray.
Bless us children everywhere,
keep us in your loving care
while we sleep and while
we are awake,
bless us all for Jesus' sake.

Little baby, little baby
touch the ground
Little baby, little baby
turn around.

Little baby, little baby
climb the stairs
Little baby, little baby
say your prayers.

Little baby, little baby
turn out the light,
and now little baby, let us say
"goodnight".

Twinkle, twinkle beautiful star
now I can see where you are.
Up and above us all so high,
like a bright light in the sky.
Twinkle, twinkle beautiful star,
now I can see where you are.

I have 10 angels beside my bed
2 to the foot and 2 to the head,
2 to sing and 2 to pray,
and 2 to keep all harm away

One, two, wear your shoe;
three, four, open the door;
five, six, pick up sticks;
seven, eight, open the gate
nine, ten, a big fat hen.





Draba kentoha – Read with the Child is a guide especially for Roma families. It is meant for both adults and children. The objective of this guide is to raise awareness of Roma parents and help them to develop language skills of their children. Children can use the booklet to watch the pictures. The phrases and words in Romani language will help the parents to teach the language to their children. Romani language bonds generations together.

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