

## When We Were Young

If you have a young brother or sister, you will know that they are still learning to do many things. A new born baby can't do much at all except cry, eat and drink. At four weeks old the baby learns to smile and to make different sounds. Soon the baby will be saying words like 'mamma' or 'dadda'.

Imagine that you have a baby sister. By the time the baby is two years old, she is starting to get into lots of mischief. She will grab anything within reach. The rest of the family have to be patient with the baby and move things out of the way. Mum and Dad are always saying 'no' or 'you can't have that.' The baby doesn't understand why. She just wants everything.

Older people understand. The baby is too young to know how to treat things. She might break a cup or glass. She might chew on the newspaper which contains nasty black ink.

Jane had a baby sister. One year old Zoe stood on her feet, holding on to Dad's hand. Zoe was looking at Mum.

"Come on," said Mum, holding out her arms.

The baby was afraid at first, to let go of Dad's hand. Then suddenly she pushed herself forward and took her first four steps. Now she was safely in her mother's arms.

That night, Jane thought about her baby sister's first steps. Mum and Dad had helped Zoe to walk because they were so kind and patient with her.

"Mothers and father help their children walk and talk and learn about things every day," thought Jane. "And they are patient with me too, when I can't do things...like tying shoe laces, and reading big words."