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# THE BASICS COMMUNITY CONTRACT

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We should sign a Basics Contract  
Wherein when it comes to babies  
We would share an obligation  
With no “ifs” or “buts” or “maybes.”

## Maximize Love, Manage Stress

We could guarantee that parents  
Would be rescued from their stress  
By supportive friends and neighbors  
Helping put their cares to rest.

This includes the types of friendship where  
When weary from no sleep  
Every parent finds a trusted soul  
Their precious child to keep.

## Talk, Sing, and Point

We would help each parent come to know  
The benefits of talking  
And the ways that pointing helps the child  
Decipher all their squawking.

## Count, Group, and Compare

We would post on walls and billboards  
Things that little kids could count  
Near some sculptures made for grouping  
To compare and climb and mount.

## Explore through Movement and Play

We would donate games and puzzles  
And some toys to use outside  
We’d make sure that every toddler  
Has a tricycle to ride.

## Read and Discuss Stories

And each child would be enthralled  
By all the wonders found through reading  
For we’d offer to each family  
Any books they might be needing.

Hereby Resolved

If we all embrace this vision  
(That means friends and neighbors too)  
Parents then will find the bandwidth  
To do what they need to do.

Yes they’ll need to do the Basics  
And by doing your small part  
You will help more parents seed their kids  
To learn and grow up smart.

If we all resolve to do these things  
We’ve learned will be required  
Then each child our efforts benefit  
Will be a life benefited.



Created by the Achievement Gap Initiative at Harvard University for use by The Basics, Inc., a nonprofit organization, and local campaigns in the Basics Learning Network.

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