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Early Childhood

Baby's First-Word Stories: House. DVD. 30 min. with activity guide. Prod. by So Smart! Prods. Dist. by Echo Bridge Home Entertainment. 2009. \$15.99.

PreS—Simple animation and cute, colorful artwork presents four friends (a pig, a lion, a dog, and a bird) in five short episodes intended to help young children ages one to three explore the rich world of language. Each episode covers some aspect of the home, including "Bathtime," "Whose Hiding in the House," "Sounds in My House," "Where Is Edward's House," and "Clean-Up Time." Narrator (and co-creator) Alexandra Tornek clearly and expressively reads the simple words that express the actions of the characters. First words about objects are presented, and then sentences and stories are built using the words. A review of important vocabulary follows each lesson. Soft music provides a backdrop for each episode. There are 11 printable activities and viewing guidelines for caregivers. Parents of preschoolers will welcome this production.—*Beverly Bixler, San Antonio Public Library, TX*