Mama Papa
Pirltirrka
Mama, Papa, Pirltirrka ‘Mummy, Daddy, new born Baby’

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Warlpiri elders at Ti Tree have produced this book for young babies and their families. The story follows the first year of life, as a new born baby grows into a toddler on the move, ready to start playing with other children.

The story and artworks were developed through community discussion and two workshops at Ti Tree Library. The artists and storytellers were Betsy Mpetyan Presley, Eileen Pwerrerl Campbell, Clarrie Kemarr Long, Josie Ngwarray Rose, Molly Napurrurla Presley, Janie Mpetyan Cook, Helen Kemarr Long, June Kemarr Ross, Mary Nangala Allan, Cecilia Kemarr Tilmouth, Tiffany Nakamarra Ross, Petronella Napaljarri Long, Jessie Napangardi Presley, Priscilla Nakamarra Long. Sonia Penangk Drover, Virginia Napanangka Fry, and Marie Kemarr Long.

The workshops were facilitated by Batchelor Institute lecturers Jenny Taylor (Visual Arts) and Margaret Carew (Own Language Work). Consultants to the project were Seraphina Napangardi Presley, April Pengart Campbell and David Strickland. Special thanks to Jeannie Pengart Campbell, Kate King, NTL, staff at Central Desert Shire and Ming Fang Strickland.

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wanarri-rla marla
thatha thatha thatha

thatha wangka ka
yurruru-urla marla
kiripi kanyi ka
karrinja pardi ka
wangkami ka
wiri ka yani...
tarnnga-lku!
Mummy, daddy, new born baby
in the coolamon
on the lap
talking “th-a-tha-tha”
sitting in a hole
 crawling along
learning to walk
speaking properly
and now grown big…
he’s gone!