

## REACHING, GRASPING AND INTERACTING

### Play Idea

### How does it help my baby?

#### Mirror



#### Helping my baby learn through looking

- Visual attention and recognition
- Exploration
- Learning to focus and follow images

#### Whoozit Sensory balls Blocks



#### Helping my baby learn through exploring

- Reaching, grasping, holding and releasing.
- Passing objects between hands
- Feeling different textures
- Bringing objects to the mouth.

#### Soft textured books with pictures



#### Helping my baby learn through using senses

- Looking at pictures
- Learning to use both hands
- Feeling different textures
- Listening to different words you say

#### Bubbles



#### Boosting my baby's brain and eyes

- Looking at, following and reaching for bubbles
- Listening to simple words you say while playing like bubble, pop, etc.

#### Activity Spiral



#### Helping my baby learn through moving

- Reaching and grasping
- Bringing legs up to kick toys
- Getting ready to roll over

#### Avoid screen time



#### Protecting my baby's learning

- Some studies show that children who watch TV or have screen time can have poorer concentration and poorer language development
- Try to keep the TV off when your baby is in the room as babies of this age can become distracted by the screen.

**Did you know?** Babies learn in the context of a relationship so talking, playing and affectionate touching will develop your baby's cognitive, language and motor skills. Talking to your baby develops their language skills.



Play together in a variety of positions

**Tummy Time**



Place brightly coloured toys, books or a mirror in front of your baby.

**Learning to sit**



Sit on the floor with your baby between your legs for support. Put interesting toys in front of your baby or turn your baby around to face you

**Exploring with hands and mouth**



Place toys next to your baby to encourage picking up or in his or her hands for exploring

Remember the importance of ...

**Using a variety of facial expressions**



It grabs your baby's attention and promotes interaction.

**Rhymes and Songs**



Use hand motions to increase attention. e.g Pat-A-cake, Itsy Bitsy Spider, Twinkle Twinkle Little Star

**Social-Emotional growth**



Engaging in relationships by laughing aloud, recognising faces, mimicking facial expressions, and enjoying play with other people

Keeping your baby safe...

**No sleeping on tummy**



Sleeping on tummy has been associated with an increased risk of sudden infant death syndrome. Tummy time only when awake.

**Only use safe toys to avoid choking**



Children of this age love putting toys in their mouth. Ensure all toys are suitable and safe for young children.

**Avoid using moulded seats**



The rigidity of the seat may interfere with the natural process of acquiring postural control which is necessary for sitting and crawling.

**Did you know?** Babies of 6 months are already beginning to respond to their name. Learning to sit and play is an important building block for later crawling, standing and walking.

Play is how a child learns. This leaflet was created to provide ideas for activities which can support development of language, cognition and motor skills. The focus is not on specific brands of toys and this is not an extensive list. Development varies from child to child and if you have any concerns about your child speak to your GP or health visitor.

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