

EXPLORING, INTERACTING AND IMITATING

Play Idea

How does it help my baby?

Play with household items



Play with boxes & paper



Helping my baby learn through exploring daily items

- Developing pretend play
- Imitating parents and siblings
- Using two hands together to explore objects of different shapes and sizes
- Solving problems during play

Building Blocks & Stacking Cups



Shape Sorters



Helping my baby using his/her hands to learn.

- Using two hands.
- Working on grasp and release.
- Pulling things apart and pushing them back together.
- Understanding shapes.
- Understanding new concepts
 - Building and putting things on top
 - Putting objects into containers
 - How things fit together.

Insert Puzzles



Cups and spoons



Pop up toys



Helping my baby learn by doing

- Pressing, turning, closing things
- Poking fingers in holes
 - Beginning to understand cause and effect

Books



Helping my baby build his/her language

- Pointing with index finger
- Pointing to what he or she wants
- Turning pages
- Building shared attention and concentration
- Imitating first words like "duck" and "ball"

Baby Walkers



Helping my baby getting ready to walk

- Standing and taking steps with support
- If you use a baby walker choose a push along walker rather than one your baby sits in.

Did you know? At this age babies can point and use gestures and sounds to communicate their wants and needs. Respond to your baby's sounds to encourage two-way communication.

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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A better start for babies



Helping my baby learn through play: 9 to 12 months old.

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Building skills

Promote Pulling to Stand



Place a toy on an elevated surface, such as a couch; encourage your baby to pull up to stand

Practice new gestures while playing



Practice together waving, clapping, pointing, shaking head for "yes" and "no". These help with the ability to communicate, understand and respond to language

Practice Turn Taking



Roll a ball back and forth. Read to you baby letting them take turns interacting with the pictures and/or turning the pages.

Remember the importance of ...

Swapping toys around



Move toys to different rooms; Hide different toys for periods of time, so when the toy appears again, your baby will feel as if this is a new toy. Promotes interest and attention.

Describe actions throughout the day



Tell your baby what's happening and name objects. i.e. "we're going to the park", "here is your milk,". Encourage your baby to respond even if it is not with words.

Social-Emotional Growth



Your baby will begin to use emotions in an interactive, purposeful manner. i.e: Gets your attention through shouting and gestures.

Keeping your baby safe...

Prevent burns



Never leave items cooking on the stove unattended. Keep hot liquids out of the reach of children.

Avoid "Sit-in" baby Walkers



They may delay walking and can be dangerous. Some baby walkers may tip over causing your baby to fall out.

Continue to avoid screen time



Note: when the TV is on in the room parents may talk less to their baby. Less talking means less learning. Babies at this age love talking and interacting with you.

Did you know? As this age babies typically can become very anxious when they can't see you. Talking to them when you are in another room can reassure them that you are there and coming back.

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