

Problem Solving

Activities to Help Your Baby Grow and Learn



Your baby already responds to sounds and voices. He's beginning to look for the source of the noise. He also looks at his surroundings and will show an active interest in a person or toy. He likes to study things, such as his own hands and his favorite face—yours!

Tracking Fun

Let baby follow a rattle, a shiny spoon, or your face with his eyes. Hold your face or an object 10–12 inches from baby's face and slowly move from left to right. Talk softly as you play. Baby will enjoy being part of the action.

Light Touch

Stroke your baby gently with a feather, a cotton ball, or the edge of a cloth. Your baby will enjoy the sensation as she learns to find and feel different body parts. Talk to baby softly. Describe what she is feeling.

Cotton Ball Sniff

To help your baby develop his sense of smell, put a bit of toothpaste on your finger, or hold a sweet smelling bar of soap. If you have them in your kitchen, you might put a drop of mint or vanilla on a tissue or cotton ball. Gently wave these smells near baby so he can experience the scent: "Mmm, it smells so good."

Making Faces

With baby on her back, lean over her and make surprised or happy faces. Encourage her to reach for your nose or lips or mouth. Have a little laugh together.

Colorful Socks

Put brightly colored socks on your baby's feet. This will encourage him to look at his feet and start to reach for them! This game will help baby discover parts of his own body: "Wow, look at those pretty feet!"

Spoon Sounds

Lay your baby on her back and dangle a couple of shiny spoons above her so she can reach and bat them: "Listen. Did you hear them tinkling?" Shiny spoons also make a nice hanging crib toy to entertain baby as long as they are safely out of reach.

Reaching Practice (about 3–4 months)

Place baby in your lap or the lap of another special person. Hold up a safe and interesting toy for baby to reach for. Let baby be successful by slowly moving the toy to his fingers: "You got it!"

Notes:



Don't Forget! Activities should be supervised at all times by an adult. Any material, food, or toy given to a young child should be reviewed for safety.