



Games & Activities for Babies

When you choose games to play with a baby or toddler, follow their lead! Play games that they show an interest in, notice their mood, and stop when they seem ready to move on. It's okay to repeat the same game over and over. **If baby is into a game, they are still learning from it!**

Imitation Games



Symbolic Play

At this age, a child is beginning to engage in more pretend play by copying and acting out what adults do or what happens in their own daily routine. For example, a child might pretend to drink from a cup or eat from a spoon – or “feed” an adult or toy. Play along by pretending to eat or drink and extend the play by making conversation such as, “Thank you! May I have some more?” or “Ouch! This soup is too hot!” and blowing on the spoon.

Simple Role Play



Chores

Older babies and toddlers love helping out around the home and doing simple tasks that they see adults or siblings doing. Scooping pet food into a bowl, putting bottles into a recycling bin, watering the plants, or drying dishes are all great options for a child at this age to practice new skills. Do the activity together a few times and give verbal instructions and reminders so that the child feels confident in their job!

Songs, Fingerplays & Rhymes



Fingerplays

Songs or rhymes with simple hand motions are a lot of fun for babies. With lots of practice, babies can learn to copy and remember the movements to a song.



Itsy Bitsy Spider

Move your fingers along with the song to show a spider climbing, rain falling, the spider being washed away, and the sun rising. You can help move baby's hands, too!

Lyrics:

*The itsy-bitsy spider went up the water spout,
down came the rain and washed the spider out,
up came the sun and dried out all the rain
and the itsy-bitsy spider went up the spout again.*



Sharing Songs and Stories

Children love listening to their favorite stories and songs over and over again. Check out new books from the library and sing simple songs (you can even make them up!) to discover which ones become favorites.





Wheels on the Bus

Move your hands along with the song to show the wheels turning, wipers moving, horn beeping, and doors opening and closing. You can help move baby's hands, too! If the child doesn't want the song to end, make up your own words about other things happening on the bus.

Lyrics:

*The wheels on the bus go round and round
Round and round, round and round
The wheels on the bus go round and round
All day long*

*The wipers on the bus go swish, swish, swish
Swish, swish, swish, swish, swish, swish
The wipers on the bus go swish, swish, swish
All day long*

*The horn on the bus goes beep, beep, beep
Beep, beep, beep, beep, beep, beep
The horn on the bus goes beep, beep, beep
All day long*

*The doors on the bus go open and shut
Open and shut, open and shut
The doors on the bus go open and shut
All day long*



Hiding Games



Hide and Seek

At this age, babies may enjoy hiding themselves and listening to you search loudly for them while they track your location mentally. Keep the game exciting by exaggerating your movements and narrating your search, “Where is baby? Is baby under the table? Nooo. Is baby on the bed? Noooo. Is baby behind the couch? Yes! I found you!”