

Sample Activities from the Infant Program (Volume 1)

Learning objectives are included in each activity



Step-by-step instructions

Opportunities for authentic assessment are built in to each activity



Water Play

Learning Objectives

- To interact with an element in the environment
- To build tactile skills

Materials

pan of water or a commercially purchased infant/toddler water table

What to Do

1. Place the pan of water on a table or protected floor.
2. Put the infant on your lap and sit where the child can comfortably reach the water.

Safety note: Carefully supervise babies around water. Do not leave the children unsupervised at any time.

3. Describe what the child is doing and experiencing: "Oh, you are splashing!" "You are touching the water. Is the water cool on your hand?"

Observations

- Does the child reach out to the water immediately?
- Does he enjoy the sensation?
- What does he do with it?

Adapted from *Simple Steps: Developmental Activities for Infants, Toddlers, and Two-Year-Olds* by Karen Miller, with permission from Gryphon House, Inc., <http://www.gryphonhouse.com>.



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Activities are easily adapted for one or a small group of infants

Singing Fun

Learning Objectives

- To expose the child to rhythm
- To develop auditory skills

What to Do

1. Pick three songs that the baby likes to sing, for example, "Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star," "Mary Had a Little Lamb," and "Jingle Bells."
2. Clap your hands as you sing one of the songs.
3. Put the baby in your lap and sing the song again, clapping the baby's hands.
4. Pick a second song, and as you sing, shake bells to the music.
5. Sing the second song again, this time letting the baby shake the bells.
6. While you sing a third song, hit a wooden spoon against a metal pot.
7. Repeat the third song, letting the baby play with the spoon.



Observations

- Does the infant show a preference for a particular instrument (hands, spoon, bells)?
- How does the baby let you know he wants to continue the game?
- How does he let you know he wants to stop?

Adapted from *Games to Play with Babies*, 3rd ed., by Jackie Silberg, with permission from Gryphon House, Inc., <http://www.gryphonhouse.com>.

This Is the Father

Learning Objective

To build language skills



What to Do

1. Wiggle one of the baby's fingers at a time, starting with the thumb, as you recite the following:
*This is the father, short and stout.
 This is the mother with children about.
 This is the brother, tall you see.
 This is the sister with doll on her knee.
 This is the baby sure to grow.
 And here is the family, all in a row.*
2. On the last line, hold up all five fingers and shake them gently.
3. Play the game again, wiggling one toe at a time, starting with the big toe.

Observations

- Does the baby enjoy your touching her fingers and toes?
- How does the baby express to you that she is enjoying this activity?

Adapted from *Go Anywhere Games for Babies* by Jackie Silberg, with permission from Gryphon House, Inc., <http://www.gryphonhouse.com>.

Music activities build motor skills, cognitive skills, and communication skills