Games to Play with Babies

Rolling Fun

Young babies are very busy learning and exploring their environments. Learning how to roll from stomach to back and from back to stomach is an important milestone.

To encourage rolling you will need:
2 colorful toys

Lay the baby on a soft surface. Put one toy on each side of the baby. Tell the baby, "It's time to roll!" Gently roll him over to one side so that he can look at the toy. Then gently roll the baby to the other side to look at that toy. Continue rolling the baby back and forth, allowing time for the baby to reach for and grasp each toy. Play this game until the baby loses interest.

Muffin Tin Play

Older babies are learning how to grasp and release materials. This game is tons of fun for baby and you!

You will need:
A six-cup muffin tin
Six tennis balls or bean bags

Give the baby a muffin tin. Show her how to place a ball into each hole. Take turns putting the balls in and taking them out. Let her dump them all out and start over. Play this game until the baby loses interest.

Games to Play with Toddlers

Contact Paper Collage

Toddlers love to explore! You can encourage toddlers to explore new textures through collage. This activity helps to foster fine motor skills and creativity!

You will need:
Clear contact paper
Small pieces of paper, cotton, ribbon

Place contact paper on the table with the sticky side up. Put collage materials on a small plate or tray. Encourage toddler to pick up the collage materials and place them on the contact paper. Talk with him about how the contact paper and the collage materials feel. Allow toddler to place collage materials anywhere on the contact paper. When finished, hang the collage on the wall or window to display.

Simple Puzzle Play

Toddlers are learning all about themselves and the world around them. You can us photos and everyday materials to create simple puzzles that support pre-math skills!

You will need:
Photos and large, bright pictures
Cardboard
Glue
Scissors

Glue photos/pictures onto card board. For young toddlers, cut the picture into two pieces. Sit down with the toddler and show her how the two pieces go together to create whole. Allow the toddler to play and experiment with the pieces. As the toddler gets older and has more experience with puzzles,

For more games to play with babies and toddlers, contact the WNY Infant Toddler Resource Network at:

1-866-281-4739 x 3065

Or visit us at
www.wnyinfanttoddlersolutions.org