



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!**

Lap Games *Scan the code with your phone camera to see the game in action!*



Play Peekaboo!

Babies love hide-and-find games. They challenge babies to remember who is hiding, and it helps them practice basic skills of self-control!



Play "Trot Trot to Boston"

Put your baby on your lap on your knees, facing you. As you chant the words, bounce them gently up and down. You can be silly by saying the words very quickly or very slowly: "Trot trot to Boston, Trot trot to Lynn. Watch out little [baby's name] or you might fall in!"



Play "Pat-A-Cake"

Sing "Pat-A-Cake, pat-a-cake, baker's man, bake me a cake as fast as you can! Roll it, and pat it, and mark it with a [first letter of baby's name], then put it in the oven for the baby and me!" Clap, roll and pat baby's hands gently as you sing. Increase the speed as you repeat!

Hiding Games



Hide a toy under a cloth, cup, or box and encourage your baby to look for it. Once they can find it quickly, hide it, show baby that you moved it, and encourage them to find it again.

When baby finds the object, get excited for them. Tell them, “You found it!” and repeat the game as long as they seem interested. If baby turns away or fusses, try to see if you can figure out what their mood is telling you, or what they’re interested in next. The game can change!

Have a Conversation



Six-month-old babies begin to make sounds like “ga,” “ma,” and “ba.” Sit with baby facing you on your lap and make silly sounds. Take a pause and wait to see if baby “talks back.” When they babble, squeal, or make a silly face, make the same sounds and face back.

Tell baby a story that has a lot of meaning to you. You can tell them about the day they were born, or about an important event in your life. Along the way, stop and ask them questions. Even though you won’t get “real” answers, baby will add their own colorful details along the way.

