



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



Baby See, Baby Do!

Take turns making simple gestures like waving your hand, sticking out your tongue, or blowing a kiss. Babies love to copy adults by watching your actions, remembering them, waiting their turn, and then trying to do what you did. Later, the child might make the gesture first and then *you* can copy *them*!



Boom!

You can also take turns doing simple actions like dropping a toy in a bucket. When the toy hits the bottom of the bucket you can say, "Boom!" This is a silly game that might make the baby laugh or clap in excitement. After a few times of doing this, drop a toy in the bucket and don't say anything. The child might try to say, "Boom!" or make another noise. If they do, respond by saying it back. Next, encourage the child to drop the toys in the bucket and say "Boom!" together.

Hiding Games



Where Is It?

Find an object or toy that makes noise – like a set of keys that jingle or a toy that makes music. Make the sound so that baby is interested, then hide the object behind your back or under a blanket. Encourage baby to look for it, saying, “Where are the keys?” When baby finds the object show your excitement, “You found it!”. Try different hiding spots or different objects and repeat the game until baby loses interest.

Conversation



Grocery Store Chat

Point out and talk about interesting things during everyday life. At the grocery store talk about the different fruits and vegetables you see: What type of fruit is it? What color is it? What does it taste like? “Yummy, I see red and green apples. I wonder if they taste sweet!” Even though a baby at this age won’t talk back, they are learning new words and language skills from listening to you.

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



Window Watcher

Find a safe spot to watch a busy scene together. Some options might be looking outside through a closed window or sitting on a park bench.

When the baby looks at something, describe what they are seeing. You can talk about other senses, too—what the baby might be hearing, feeling, or smelling.

Share and describe things that are interesting to you, even if it's something small like a bird in a tree or a garbage truck passing by. Listen to any sounds that the baby makes and when they're done, respond by talking or giving them attention. This is a great way to teach babies about conversations, new words, and paying attention.



Familiar Words

At this age, babies begin to recognize and respond to commonly used words. This might be the sound of their own name, familiar caregiver names, or favorite objects like a special toy or blanket.

Encourage this behavior by repeating the words in an engaging and fun way, using them in sentences, and pairing them with the person or object. For example, when you see baby looking at their favorite teddy bear you could say, "Wow look at that bear! Would you like to hold the bear?" After you pass it to them you can continue the conversation, "What a soft bear you have."