

Sing to Me

Age: Birth—12 months

Skills: Social-Emotional, Language

Materials: Words to song

Parenting Tip: Learning takes place from the very beginning of an infant's life. Much of your infant's day involves activities such as feeding, diapering, bathing and holding. Infants learn a great deal during these routines. You can foster language development by talking to your infant as you change, feed, diaper and bath her. You help your infant learn that they can affect others through your reactions to their facial expressions. When you smile and touch your infant softly, you are helping her learn to trust others and to feel good about herself. Talk and sing to your infant often, sing songs, play lullabies and read each day with your infant. You are their world.

Directions: Sing some of your childhood songs each day to your infant such as:

Twinkle, twinkle, little star,
How I wonder what you are.
Up above the world so high,
Like a diamond in the sky.
Twinkle, twinkle, little star,
How I wonder what you are!



A Hug From You!

Age: 24 to 36 months

Skills: Language/Communication/Social/Math

Materials: Words to song

Parent Tip: Your child loves to sing and enjoys singing songs over and over again. Older toddlers continue to understand many more words than they can speak. They are very interested in books, reading and singing. Your child will want you to read and sing to them at all times during the day. Your child enjoys singing simple songs and will follow gestures to the song.

Directions: Teach your child this song "A Hug From You" sung to the tune of "Mary had a little lamb".



A Hug From You -
It's nice to get to a hug from you, -
Hug from you, Hug from you. -
It's nice to get a hug from you, -
So, let's give one right now. -
(Hug your child)

Valentine Art

Age: 18 -24 months

Skills: Art/Language/Pre-Writing

Materials: Paper, Crayons

Parent Tip: Young children between the ages of 18 and 24 months need the opportunity to scribble. They need you to provide them with paper, a crayon, a suitable surface to set the paper on and your watchful eyes, along with encouragement. Your child's early marks allow him to experiment. The young child at this age will scribble in different ways making lines, dots, and marks in different areas on the paper. This is the beginning stage of drawing and writing. **Enjoy the scribbling stage!**

Directions: Provide your child with a blank piece of paper and a red crayon (if you don't have red, any dark color will do). Encourage the child to scribble on the paper. Talk with your child as he scribbles, comment about his marks, for example say "Look at the lines on the paper you are making with your crayon". When the child is done, you have a valentine to share with family and friends. If you like cut the paper into a heart shape.



No-Cook Play Dough

Age: 3 years to 5 years

Skills: Math/Language/Art/Science

Ingredients: 4 cups flour, 1 cup salt, 1 3/4 cup warm water, food coloring

Parent Tip: Early development of number concepts is critical in developing positive attitudes about mathematics at an early age. Your child needs to experience a lot of 'doing' and 'saying' before written numerals will make sense to them. Engaging children with a variety of measurement concepts is a great beginning. For instance let him measure and count the cups of flour, salt and water. Let him see the difference in the size of each measuring cup. Encourage him to talk about the textures of the ingredients.



Directions: With your child measure the flour and salt let him put the ingredients into the bowl; then measure together the water and add it to the mix. Knead the dough for ten minutes, working together on this will help your child learn about time and what the word knead means. Keep the dough refrigerated in an airtight container until you're ready to use it! Gather cookie cutters, a rolling pin and other tools to create crafts. You can also shape the dough into animals, people, flowers, etc. Have Fun! Encourage your child to help you clean up.