



Problem Solving

Activities to Help Your Baby Grow and Learn



Your baby is a busy explorer. She enjoys holding, stacking, and playing with toys. She is learning her body parts and can probably point to at least one if you ask her. She enjoys books and will “pat” her favorite picture. She may try to help turn pages in a book. She enjoys learning about how things work.

Money in the Bank Make a money bank out of a large can or a plastic container. Cut a long slit in the plastic cover about 1/2-inch wide. Use the circular ends from frozen juice cans as “money,” or cut circles from a box. Show your baby how to put these “coins” into the bank.

Water Painting Give your baby a clean paintbrush and a small bucket of plain water. On a sunny day, go outside and let your child paint the walls, sidewalk, or fence with water. Your child will enjoy this “painting.” Then you can watch it dry, and paint again. Try this inside with a small paintbrush and a piece of paper. Watch the painting disappear!

Problem Solving Let your baby figure out how things work and what they do. Show baby how the switch turns the light on and off. Show him how the flashlight works. Talk to him about what you are doing and why: “I’m putting on a coat because I am cold.”

Little Hunter During quiet times, ask your baby to find the blanket or get a book from another room. Ask her to get things she cannot see at the time. She might need a little help. When baby is successful, be sure to say, “Thank you.”

Matching Game Children this age are just beginning to notice when two things are alike, especially shoes, socks, or other objects they know about. Play this game: Hold up one of baby’s shoes or a sock. Ask baby, “Where’s the other one just like this?” Help baby make the match. “Yes, these two are the same.”

Copy Me Play a game with your baby. You do something and then try to get baby to imitate you. Clap your hands. If he tries, say, “Look, you can clap, too!” Touch your nose, stick out your tongue, and say, “You try.” When he does something new, imitate him. Be silly and have fun. You can also try this with a mirror.



12–16 months