

Playing with your baby

Play is the main way that babies and toddlers learn about the world. With your help, it's also a wonderful way to support their language development.

- As a parent, you are your child's best playmate so try to spend time every day playing together.
- Newborns love physical play, especially when you gently tickle their face or count their fingers and toes.
- When your baby gets a little older and stronger, offer her lots of toys or things that are safe to go into her mouth, and talk about the objects for her.
- Make lots of play sounds to go with what's happening, like "brmm, brmm" as you push a car along. That way, your child will hear different speech sounds and learn that listening to voices is fun.
- Your baby will love hearing the same little rhymes and stories, and playing games like peek-a-boo, over and over again.



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- You don't need lots of toys to play – your baby can play with safe, simple things around the house. But toy libraries offer toys on loan for free or a small fee. For your nearest call 020 7255 4604.
- As your baby gets older, don't try to teach him anything during play. He will learn best if he chooses what to play and you follow his lead.



Talk To Your Baby