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Personal-Social
Activities to Help Your Baby Grow and Learn



Your baby knows you very well now and will lift his arms to come to you. He may begin to fret when strangers approach. He likes to play with his image in the mirror and is really quite sociable as long as he feels safe and secure.

A Cup for Baby Allow your baby to hold a plastic cup. Put a little water in it, and see what baby will do. She will probably enjoy trying to drink out of a cup. Let her experiment.

Body Awareness Your baby is discovering different body parts and probably has become very interested in his feet and hands. Encourage him by playing games such as *This Little Piggy* and other games with fingers and toes. Talk about his body when he touches his feet. Say, "You found your feet!"

Self-Feeding Encourage your baby to pick up and eat safe foods such as crackers or Cheerios. You may also give baby her own spoon to hold while you feed her with another spoon. Try taking turns—you pretend to eat a little and then offer a bite to your baby. Baby will understand that feeding herself is the way to go.

Whisper Power Rock, walk, or dance and whisper sweet words in your baby's ear. Whispering to your baby helps him to calm down and provides another way to talk in a quiet and loving voice.

A Social Hour Invite another parent and his or her baby over to play with your baby. As the babies look at, reach for, and explore each other, they will make important discoveries about real people. Stay close by to keep each baby safe as they do their exploring.

Wave Bye-Bye Wave bye-bye when you leave the room for a moment or two. As you wave, tell your baby where you are going. "I am going into your bedroom to get your blanket. I'll be right back. Bye-bye."

Faces in the Mirror While looking in the mirror with your baby, talk about body parts such as the eyes, nose, and ears. Touch your nose and say, "Daddy's nose!" Touch baby's nose and say, "Baby's nose." "Daddy's eyes, baby's eyes." Play this game as long as baby seems interested.



4-8 months