

Family Visit Infant Activities

Standing

Place the infant roll standing up on the floor. Place a toy that the baby might be interested on the top of the infant roll. It is very important during this activity to have a firm grip on the infant roll. With the parent supporting the baby and you holding on to the infant roll, see if the baby is interested in pulling themselves up using the infant roll.

Remembering to follow the baby's lead, here are some questions you can ask as the baby interacts and responds:

- What is happening?
- How is the baby feeling?
- How are you feeling?

Let the students know that if this is a 'not yet' for the baby, you will continue to try this and see if the baby will be able to do it next time. The baby may not be able to do this yet, but it is still helpful to show where the baby is at in terms of their development.

Using the Roots of Empathy Balls

Ask the students:

- What happened last time when we offered the baby multiple balls?
- What do you think will happen this time?

Offer a Roots of Empathy ball to the baby. When the baby has the ball, ask the students to predict what the baby will do if you offer them another one. Then give the baby a second ball and have the students watch the baby's reaction. When the baby has two balls, ask the students to predict what the baby will do if you offer him/her a third Roots of Empathy ball. Then give the baby a third ball and see what they do.

Remembering to follow the baby's lead, here are some questions that you can ask as the baby interacts and responds:

- What do you think is going to happen if I offer the baby a second/third toy?
- What is happening? Is the baby able to hold on to the second/third toy?
- What are the baby's hands doing?

Ask questions about temperament, such as:

- Is the baby easily frustrated with trying to grasp the toy? Or does the baby keep trying?
- Was the baby distracted by the second toy or were they just focused on the first toy?

Mimicking

Ask the students:

- What happened last time when I tried to get the baby to mimic me?
- What do you think will happen this time?

Engage the baby in an activity that the baby might be able to mimic. This could include squeezing a toy such as the Cribside Graphic Panel, clapping, or tapping a second ball against a ball that the baby is holding. Repeat this action a few times, giving time for the baby to respond, waiting to see if they will repeat the action. The baby may not be able to engage in

these activities “yet” but repeatedly attempting to engage the baby in mimicking activities will demonstrate the baby’s cognitive and physical development.

Remembering to follow the baby’s lead, here are some questions you can ask and suggestions you can make as the baby interacts and responds:

- What is happening?
- How does the baby feel? How do you know?
- What do you think is happening in the baby’s brain right now?
- What senses is the baby using to interact with this toy?
- Is the baby interested in the toy?



This can be a good time to sing a song with a repetitive action to see if the baby will be able to mimic it. For example, “*Pat-a-cake*” “*Row, Row, Row, Your Boat*”