

Family Visit Infant Activities

Using the Sensory Toy

Offer the Sensory Toy to the baby. See if they are beginning to use both hands together or if they have started to shake the rattle with one hand.

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

- How is the baby able to grab compared to the first time we met them?
- How are they feeling right now? How do you know?
- What do you think they are thinking about this toy?
- What senses are they using to interact with this toy?

Mimicking

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 that you could ask and suggestions that 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 their brain right now?
- What senses are they 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*” or “*Row, Row, Row, Your Boat*”.

Gone Fishing

Offer one toy fish to the baby and allow them time to grab and interact with it.

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

- What does the baby think of this toy? How do you know?
- What are they doing with the toy?

Ask for the baby's permission to take the toy away from them and place the toy inside of the tank (you may need the parent's help with this). Hold the fish tank in front of the baby and allow them to interact with it.

Ask the students questions, such as:

- What is the baby doing?
- Is the baby able to get the toy that is inside of the tank?
- How does the baby feel right now?
- Why might it be hard for the baby to get the toy?
- Has there ever been a time when you've struggled with a task and how did you feel?