

Family Visit Infant Activities

Using the Roots of Empathy Balls

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 coach the students to watch the baby's reaction. When the baby has two balls, ask the students to predict what the baby will do if you offer them 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 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 do they keep trying?
- Was the baby distracted by the second toy or were they just focused on the first toy?

Going Fishing

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

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

Hiding a Toy

Take a small toy that the baby is interested in. Ask the students what they think will happen if you hide the toy under the Green Blanket. Show the baby the toy to engage them. Once they are engaged, fold the end of the Green Blanket over the toy.

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:

- Does the baby know where the toy is?
- What do you think the baby is thinking?

Move the Green Blanket and show the baby the toy again, and then hide the toy again. You can do this a few times.