



THIS MONTH'S THEME

In the Woods

This month, we're bringing the calm and beauty of In the Woods into your baby's day with soft sounds, gentle movement, cozy materials and nature-inspired play. From the feel of soft "leaves" to the hush of a gentle breeze, these nurturing moments in the classroom and at home invite your little one to explore the world with comfort, curiosity and care.

Sing and dance at home with theme-based music!



READ EVERY DAY

Establish a reading routine to bond with your child through stories. Reading to your baby can help establish a predictable daily routine while also promoting brain activity, early literacy skills and language development.

Try this: *Point to the pictures*
Looking at pictures together helps your baby connect words to the world around them. When you point to images while reading, you're building early language skills and strengthening your bond through shared attention.

How:

- **Name What You See** – Point to one picture at a time and say something simple, like "Look, a bunny!"
- **Pause and Notice** – Give your baby a moment to respond with a look, smile or sound.
- **Build Familiarity** – Go back to favorite books often. Seeing and hearing the same pictures and words helps your baby feel secure and engaged.

Tip of the Month: *Read the same books*
Regularly reading to your baby enhances their development. It builds security and predictability while improving language, literacy, memory and attention. Reading also strengthens bonds, creating a positive view of reading with your child.

Play & Learn at Home

Encourage different types of play with objects you can find at home or in nature. Below are three activities you can try at home related to the same type of play.



Stack & Nest

Does your child explore using their senses? Do they make marks with your help?

Young Infant

Invite your child to explore cold sensations by placing a bag of crushed ice on a tray during tummy time. Gently guide their hand to touch the bag and notice the marks left behind from the moisture. Talk about what they feel.

Older Infant

Place a tray of ice near your child and let them explore how it feels. Talk with them about what they're noticing, then offer a crayon so they can "draw the cold."

Young Toddler

Set out a bowl of ice with small toy animals for your child to explore. As you play, talk about the animals, saying, "The bear is in the cold!" Encourage them to feel the ice and move the animals around. Offer a crayon so they can draw their chilly animal adventure.

Does your child enjoy ongoing play with you or another family member? Do they explore simple toys with you?

Young Infant

While your child is on their tummy, tap plastic cups together to catch their attention. Watch as they turn their head toward the sound and follow the cups as you move them.

Older Infant

While your child is sitting, show them how to bang two plastic cups together and stack a few more nearby. Follow their lead as they explore the sounds or the fun of building.

Young Toddler

Stack cups from biggest to smallest together and remove them one at a time. Encourage your child to stack the cups or knock them down as they play.

BOOKS & NURSERY RHYMES



Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You See?
by Bill Martin Jr.



Penguin and Pinecone: A Friendship Story
by Salina Yoon

HICKORY DICKORY DOCK

Hickory Dickory Dock,
The mouse ran up the clock.
The clock struck one,
The mouse ran down!
Hickory Dickory Dock.

Does your child respond to the rhythm and imitate simple movements?

Young Infant

Play a song together and use a bowl, cup and tube to make sounds, like pounding or tapping. Invite your child to join in, repeat the sounds with you and explore the materials together.

Older Infant

Set out a tube, bowl and cup and explore stacking and tapping them in different ways. As the music changes, use the items to make new sounds and encourage your child to mimic you by playing along.

Young Toddler

Play a song and pound on a bowl as you hand your child a tube. Pound together until the second verse, then encourage them to make wind sounds through the tube. Stand up like a tree for the third verse.

Reminders and Upcoming Information

