



THIS MONTH'S THEME Itty Bitty Bugs

Itty Bitty Bugs offers a gentle way for your baby to begin noticing the world around them. Sights, sounds and textures inspired by tiny insects invite calm exploration and sensory discovery. These quiet moments help your baby feel safe and supported while building early curiosity and connection.

Sing and dance at home with theme-based music!



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.

Push & Pull

Does your child reach for familiar toys and try to explore or use them on their own?

Young Infant

Lie with your child and offer your fingers as you gently help them pull up to sit. Invite them to reach for and pull on a scarf during peek-a-boo and copy facial expressions.

Older Infant

Play peek-a-boo with a scarf and invite your child to copy your facial expressions. Offer the scarf for your child to pull over their face and push away as you take turns hiding and revealing yourselves.

Young Toddler

Play peek-a-boo with a scarf and invite your child to pull it down to reveal your face. Take turns hiding and revealing each other. Show and name different feelings and invite them to copy.

Does your child follow simple guidance while walking, climbing and carrying objects like a link chain or scarf?

Young Infant

Sit with your baby and dangle a link chain and a scarf, noticing which one they reach for or kick toward. Following their choices helps create playful opportunities for movement and exploration together.

Older Infant

Wiggle a link chain and scarf near your child and invite them to move toward their choice. Playing together encourages coordination and confidence as your child explores how their body moves.

Young Toddler

Show your child the link chain and scarf and invite them to carry the objects as they move around the room. As they safely drag or gently toss them into containers, describe their choices.

Does your child follow where you point and use their body to push or pull the toy car?

Young Infant

Sit with your baby and roll a ball or car while making simple sounds together, such as "b-b-b." Invite them to kick or tap the car toward different block "bugs," encouraging early sound play and movement.

Older Infant

Place block "bugs" on a low surface and encourage your child to pull up to stand and look for a specific one together. Invite them to tap or push a toy car toward the block and celebrate when it reaches the "bug."

Young Toddler

Set two block "bugs" on the floor or a low shelf and give your child a toy car. Name each "bug" and invite your child to push, pull or drive the car from one block to the other.

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: Mix It Up

Mixing it up during reading keeps your baby engaged by adding variety and playful interaction to storytime.

How:

- **Change Your Voice:** Use different tones, sounds or facial expressions to capture your baby's attention.
- **Pause and Point:** Stop to point to pictures, colors or faces and talk about what you see together.
- **Follow Baby's Lead:** Slow down, repeat favorite pages or let your baby touch and explore the book.

Tip of the Month: Add Movement

Gently rock, bounce or clap while reading to make stories feel lively and fun.

BOOKS & NURSERY RHYMES



The Very Hungry Caterpillar
by Eric Carle



Backyard Bugs
by Little Hippo Books

ITSY BITSY SPIDER

The itsy, bitsy spider
Climbed up the water spout.
Down came the rain,
And washed the spider out.
Out came the sun,
And dried up all the rain.
And the itsy, bitsy spider
Climbed up the spout again.

Reminders and Upcoming Information

