



THIS MONTH'S THEME

Sand & Water

In *Sand & Water*, splash and play, scoop and giggle throughout the day! Your baby will enjoy playful sensory moments to touch and explore. These silly, splashy experiences bring curiosity and cozy connections through play and learning.

**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: Celebrate Curiosity

Respond to your baby's sounds and movements during reading, showing that books are fun to explore together.

How:

- **Follow Their Sounds:** Pause while reading and respond when your child coos or babbles to show their sounds matter.
- **Notice Their Gestures:** Name what your child points to or touches so they feel excited to explore the book with you.
- **Take Turns Together:** Read a little, pause and respond to your child's sounds or movements to make storytime a fun shared experience.

Tip of the Month: Use Their Name: Use your child's name while reading to make stories feel personal and fun, like saying, "Look, Emma found the fish!"

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.



Shake & Pound

Does your child use sounds or gestures to communicate while moving and exploring during play?

Young Infant

Lay your baby on a blanket and sit close with a favorite book. As you read, gently shake the blanket on each page and pause to notice your baby's response to the movement and your voice.

Older Infant

Create a low blanket tunnel and sit nearby with a book. Read and name the pictures, then gently shake the blanket. Encourage them to crawl underneath, alternating between reading and movement.

Young Toddler

Use a blanket to make gentle "beach waves" while reading together. Pause to point at the pictures and invite your child to name or point before lifting and lowering the blanket again.

Does your child explore their body parts and stay engaged with familiar people or activities during play?

Young Infant

Lie on the floor, facing your baby, and look through a clear, water-filled bag. Lift the bag to your face and pause to see if your baby reaches or touches it, then lower it and make a silly face together.

Older Infant

Sit across from your child and play peek-a-boo using a clear, water-filled bag. Place the bag on different body parts, gently shake it off and invite your child to copy your actions.

Young Toddler

Offer your child a clear, water-filled bag and show how to place it on your head or leg, then shake it off. Name each body part and encourage them to copy the movement and point to the same body part on themselves.

Does your child notice numbers and explore different shapes during play?

Young Infant

Fill a bottle with natural materials, like sand and water, then secure the lid. Lie face-to-face with your baby during tummy time and encourage them to reach for and explore the bottle.

Older Infant

Place three clear bottles on a tray: one with sand (or natural items) and water, one with sand, and one with water. Secure and label the lids 1–3. Invite your child to hold and move the bottles while you talk about what you see and hear.

Young Toddler

Set out the bottles that are labeled 1, 2 and 3. Encourage your child to close their eyes while you shake one and ask them to name or find the matching bottle. Encourage them to count and talk about how they look or sound.

BOOKS & NURSERY RHYMES



Where is Baby's Beach Ball?

by Karen Katz

Llama Llama Sand and Sun

by Anna Dewdney

FIVE LITTLE MONKEYS

Five (Four, Three, Two...)

Little monkeys jumping on the bed,
One fell off and bumped his head.

Mama called the doctor and the doctor said,
"No more monkeys jumping on the bed!"

One

Little monkey jumping on the bed,
He fell off and bumped his head.

Mama called the doctor and the doctor said,
"Put those monkeys right to bed!"

Reminders and Upcoming Information

