



## THIS MONTH'S THEME **Safe & Secure**

This month, we're snuggling into feelings of safety and security, filled with cozy routines, caring faces and gentle moments that help our littlest ones feel protected and loved. While infants may not yet understand what a community helper is, they do know the comfort of a familiar voice, the calm of a daily routine and the reassurance of loving arms. Together, we're building a strong sense of trust that lets your little one explore the world with confidence, one smile, cuddle and helper at a time.

**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.

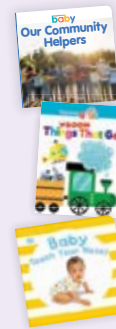
**Try this:** Let your baby choose Invite your baby to be part of the fun by holding up a few books and seeing which one gets a wiggle, reach or smile. Letting them take the lead turns storytime into a playful, shared adventure and builds their love for books from the very start!

### How:

- **Offer a few choices** – Pick a few baby-friendly books and encourage the child to reach, look and grab for the one that catches their eye.
- **Watch for their interest** – Pay attention to small cues, like lingering eye contact, excited kicking or a big smile.
- **Celebrate their pick** – Read the book they choose, even if it's familiar. Their favorite stories bring comfort and joy, building a love for reading!

**Tip of the Month:** Let your baby choose the book. Following their lead makes storytime more engaging and helps build early decision-making skills.

## BOOKS & NURSERY RHYMES



**Our Community Helpers**  
by Experience Early Learning Co.

**Things That Go**  
by Little Hippo Books

**Baby Touch Your Nose**  
by DK

### THIS LITTLE PIGGY

This little piggy went to market,  
This little piggy stayed home,  
This little piggy had roast beef,  
This little piggy had none.  
And this little piggy cried,  
"Wee, wee, wee!"  
all the way home.

## 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.

### Look & Listen

**Does your child copy sounds you make, like "vroom" or "beep beep"? Do they bounce, sway or move along to rhyming songs?**

#### Young Infant

Roll a toy car, then hide it with playful sounds like "vroom" or "beep beep" and ask, "Where did it go?" Bring it back with a smile and sing, "Zoom zoom zoom, we're driving around the room."

#### Older Infant

Roll a toy car while singing, "Zoom zoom zoom, we're driving around the room." When the song ends, hide the car under a blanket and ask, "Where did it go?" Invite your baby to call out a car sound to bring it back and play again.

#### Young Toddler

Push a toy car and sing a favorite song, pausing before the last word of each line. Hide the car as you wait for your child to chime in, then sing the missing word together and reveal the car.

**Does your child listen or respond to stories or music from your culture? Do they notice or show interest in pictures of people with different skin tones, hair or features?**

#### Young Infant

Bounce your baby on your lap and show them a baby photo. Say, "Bounce, bounce, look and see, who's that smiling back at me?" Smile together and enjoy music that celebrates your family's culture or traditions.

#### Older Infant

Show your child a baby photo and say, "Bounce, bounce, look and see, who's that smiling back at me?" Talk about what you notice in the photo and enjoy music that celebrates your family's culture or traditions.

#### Young Toddler

Spread out photos and clap to get your child's attention. Say, "1, 2, 3, find a face and dance with me!" Invite them to pick a photo and talk about the child, then dance to music that celebrates your family's traditions.

**Does your child respond to changes in the weather? Do they notice sudden sounds, lights or movements around them?**

#### Young Infant

Step outside or sit by a window with your child and invite them to feel the fresh air. Describe what you notice and watch how your child reacts to the sights, sounds and sensations around them.

#### Older Infant

Sit by a window or step outside with your child to feel the air and look around together. Talk about the weather and invite them to point to or name things they see.

#### Young Toddler

Step outside or stand by a window with your child and ask, "What do you see outside?" Talk about what they notice and gently guide them if something seems unsafe.

# Reminders and Upcoming Information

