



## THIS MONTH'S THEME **Pond Life**

Come dive into the peaceful world of *Pond Life*! Cool water, gentle ripples and the sounds of frogs and ducks invite your baby to explore with curiosity and calm. With songs, stories and sensory play, we'll explore the movements and rhythms of life around the pond, helping your little one connect with the soothing beauty of nature all around.

**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.

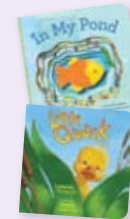
**Try this: Describe What You See**  
Talking about pictures helps your baby connect words to real objects, build language and enjoy learning through your voice.

### How:

- **Point It Out:** Point to a picture and describe what's happening by saying things like "The frog is jumping in the water!" to bring the story to life.
- **Talk It Out:** Talk about the colors and shapes you see, such as, "Look at the big yellow duck with round feet," to help your baby notice details.
- **Make It Real:** Connect the story to real life by saying, "We saw a bird like that outside today!" so your baby begins linking books to their world.

**Tip of the Month: Smile & Make Eye Contact:** Reading is about connection as much as learning.

## BOOKS & NURSERY RHYMES



**In My Pond**  
by Sara Gillingham

**Little Quack**  
by Lauren Thompson

### I HAVE A LITTLE TURTLE

I have a little turtle,  
He lives in a box.  
He swims in the water  
And he climbs on the rocks.  
He snapped at a minnow,  
He snapped at a flea,  
He snapped at a mosquito  
And he snapped at me.  
He caught the minnow,  
He caught the flea,  
He caught the mosquito,  
But he didn't catch me!

## 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.

### Roll

**Does your child stay close to you for comfort and support?**

#### Young Infant

As gentle music plays, softly roll a small ball up and down your baby's back or arms. Talk about what you're doing to comfort and connect through touch and rhythm.

#### Older Infant

Let your child hold a small ball while you rock together to the music. Pause and wait for them to look, move or make a sound, then start rocking again to build communication and connection.

#### Young Toddler

Play music and drop a ball next to your child, describing what happens as it bounces or rolls. Encourage your child to drop or roll the ball while you talk and move together.

**Does your child use their senses to explore new things around them? Do they move their arms or legs to make things happen?**

#### Young Infant

Hold your baby's hand and help them tap a steady beat on a small bowl. Say their name as you tap the rhythm, and smile when they kick or move to make the bowl sound again.

#### Older Infant

Gently roll a ball toward your child and encourage them to roll it back. Watch how they use their hands and eyes to follow the ball and explore how it moves.

#### Young Toddler

Balance a ball on an upside-down bowl and invite your child to roll it off. Encourage them to pick it up, place it back and roll again to explore cause and effect.

**Does your child start to group toys or objects that seem alike in their own way?**

#### Young Infant

Gently lower your baby so they can reach for a ball in a box, then lift them up. Give them another ball and say, "Look at the balls!" as you slowly roll them for your baby to watch.

#### Older Infant

Invite your child to pick up balls and drop them into a box, then roll one toward them to see how they respond. Talk about what you notice by saying, "These balls look the same. They both roll!"

#### Young Toddler

Place two boxes nearby and say, "Let's roll the red ball into this box." Encourage your child to roll or carry balls to each box and decide where they go, then dump them out and play again.

# Reminders and Upcoming Information

