

THIS MONTH'S THEME

Baby Animals

This month, we're snuggling into the gentle world of Baby Animals! Soft fur, tiny paws and playful sounds invite your baby to explore with wonder. Through cuddles, songs and giggles, we'll celebrate how baby animals (and babies too) grow, discover and feel loved in their cozy little worlds.



**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.



Stack & Nest

Does your child babble or make sounds while playing with you? Do they stay engaged and enjoy the interaction?

Young Infant

While your baby is on their tummy, hide a favorite small toy under a cup and ask, "Where is it?" Lift the cup to reveal the toy and let it gently "kiss" your baby's cheek.

Older Infant

Sit beside your child and hide a favorite toy under one of the cups. Ask, "Where is it?" and cheer when they find it, then play again!

Young Toddler

Pretend the favorite toy is sad and ask, "How can you help it feel better?" Encourage your child to comfort the toy, then tuck it into its "house" (a cup) and build a tower of cups together before playing again.

Does your child use their hands to explore, stack and pour during water play with you?

Young Infant

During water play, place a few stacking cups in front of your child and gently fill one with water. Let them watch, touch or splash as you pour water from one cup to another.

Older Infant

At the sink or water table, show your child how to stack cups and pour water between them. Encourage them to try pouring or knocking the tower over to explore cause and effect.

Young Toddler

Give your child a few cups to stack and fill with water. Invite them to build towers, pour and refill, talking together about what they see and feel.

Does your child use their senses to explore their surroundings? Do they explore simple toys with curiosity?

Young Infant

While your baby is on their tummy, place a few nesting cups within reach and let them explore by touching them. Gently roll a cup back and forth to play together.

Older Infant

Sit across from your child and stack a few cups into a tower. Encourage them to knock it down or remove a cup, then rebuild for more fun.

Young Toddler

Show your child how to stack nesting cups into a tower. Invite them to add a cup, give it a gentle bump and rebuild together. Ask, "How tall will it grow?"

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: Repeat Favorites

Rereading favorite books helps your child feel safe and connected while learning new sounds and words through shared family storytime.

How:

- **Builds language skills:** Hearing the same words and phrases again helps your child recognize sounds and begin to understand meaning.
- **Creates comfort and confidence:** Familiar stories help your child feel secure and anticipate what comes next.
- **Reveals new details:** Each re-reading gives your child a chance to notice new pictures, rhythms and words.

Tip of the Month: Create a Routine

Make storytime part of your daily rhythm so your baby feels calm, connected and excited to read with you.

BOOKS & NURSERY RHYMES



**Baby Animals
Touch & Feel**
by Roger Priddy

**Noisy Baby
Animals**
by Patricia Hegarty

MARY HAD A LITTLE LAMB

Mary had a little lamb,
Its fleece was white as snow.
Everywhere that Mary went,
The lamb was sure to go.

It followed her to school one day,
Which was against the rule.
It made the children laugh and play,
To see a lamb at school.

Reminders and Upcoming Information

