

There are five areas essential to your child's healthy development. Find more supportive learning experiences for your child on the following pages in the **Massachusetts Early Learning Guidelines for Infants and Toddlers**, downloadable from the Early Education and Care website: [www.mass.gov/eec](http://www.mass.gov/eec)

**Toddlers** (12 to 33 months) →  
**Infants** (birth to 15 months) →

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# Talk to me!

Wonder together with your child..



You are your child's first teacher.



You foster the foundation of brain development and learning during the **first 3 years** of your child's life.

# Things You Can Do with Your Baby

Activities for Language and Communication Development

## Listening

Listen quietly with your baby to outside and inside sounds. **Shhh. Listen. What do you hear?**



## Imitating

Imitate your baby's sounds and actions. Play babble games. **Ba-ba-ba, Da-da-da**



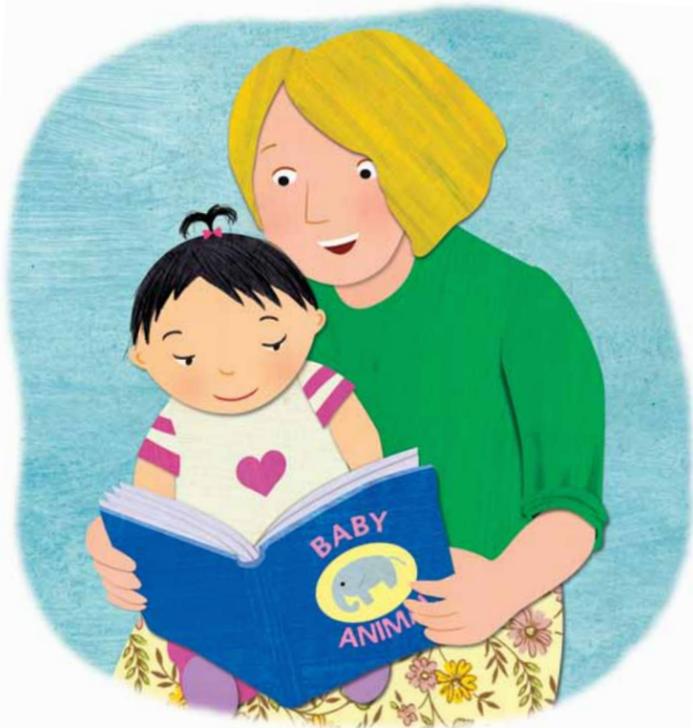
## Playing

Use everyday objects to invite your child to play. **I see you. I see your eye looking at me.**



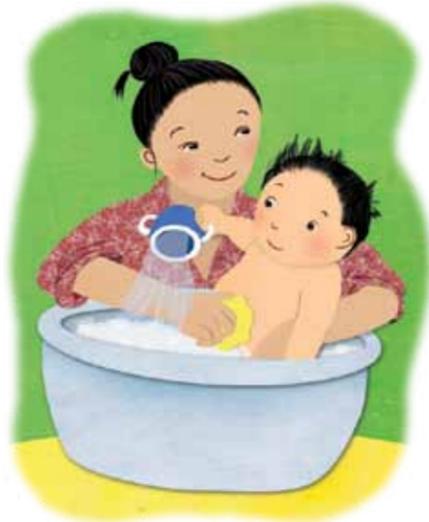
## Reading

Read to your child. **Let's read a book!**



## Sensing

Use words for all the things you can see, smell, hear, taste, and touch. **Ooh, you're splashing me, too!**



# Things You Can Do with Your Toddler

Activities for Language and Communication Development

## Conversing

Talk a lot. Talk about what you are doing and what your toddler is doing. **Tell me who you played with today.**



## Questioning

Ask your child questions to encourage further thinking, expand play, and make discoveries. **How did you make those lines?**



## Creating and Problem-solving

Support your child's curiosity. Ask your child to explain her choices and predict what is going to happen. **What do you think will happen if you put the curved block here?**



## Singing, Rhyming, Chanting, Dancing

Use your voice and body in different ways to whisper, soothe, excite, and delight. **Head, shoulders, knees, and toes...**

## Engaging

Give your toddler jobs to do. Help guide him through the steps to complete the task. **Do you think the big red tractor would fit here?**



## Pretending

Imagine and encourage pretend play. Use new words to describe what your child is doing. **Who are you today? Where are you going?**