

Dad Facts



Why is play important?

Play is the way babies and children learn about their world, themselves and how to relate to others. Babies play by watching, touching, putting things in their mouths, and listening. It is your job to create a safe environment for your baby to play and explore.

What kind of toys should I get for my baby?

Toys should be baby friendly and interesting to an infant. Check the label on the box to see if it is appropriate for your child to play with. It should be appropriate now, not one that they will “grow into”. If there is no box because the toy is from a rummage sale, thrift store or a friend, look it up on line for recalls and keep in mind the following safety tips.

To keep your child’s play time safe, toys must:

- Be large enough and not have small parts that a child can choke on. If you can put the toy in a toilet paper roll, it is too small for a child under 3.
- Be free of damage. You must regularly check the toys for any damage and make repairs or throw away the toy.
- Not be recalled (view www.cpsc.gov to see if a toy has been recalled)
- Not have sharp edges, points, or splinters
- Be non- electric or battery operated
- Not have long strings or loops on them which can strangle a baby.



How can you make the most of your child’s play time?

1. Always supervise your child when they are playing. Play time is more valuable when you are involved and playing with them...this is a great time to learn about each other!
2. Play with your child when they are happy and rested
3. Babies can become over stimulated. Stop playing or introducing new activities when you see that your baby has had enough (uninterested, fussing, tired)
4. It is ok for babies to play by themselves at times...as long as you are watching
5. Get down on the floor with them, dance with them to music, make silly faces, sing
6. “Unplug” your self from the T.V. and phone and just enjoy your child.
- 7 HAVE FUN!

What is your baby learning in the first year?...A LOT!

Following objects with their eyes

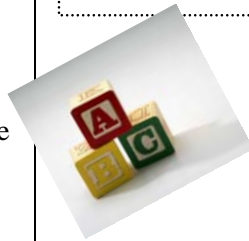
Sitting, rolling over, scooting, standing and sometimes walking

Smiling, cooing, babbling, imitating sounds

Learning who is familiar

Using their thumb and fingers to hold on to objects which they will bang, squeeze, twist and shake

How to make things happen in their environment



Toys that can help develop these skills: Rattles, unbreakable mirrors, soft blocks, stacking cups, plastic keys, balls, cars, shape sorters, squeeze toys, board books, **Games:** peek-a-boo, pat-a-cake, the itzy-bitzy spider

Remember that your child’s favorite thing to play with is YOU!

For more information on play and toy safety contact:

Safe Kids Kenosha-Racine at 687-3366

Your child’s doctor

The toy manufacturer directly

For additional safety information including recalls: go to www.cpsc.gov

