

Puzzle Play

1. Invite kids to color the picture. Then cut the page apart into 2-6 “puzzle pieces” (the younger the child, the fewer pieces).
2. Spread the pieces out, and help kids put the puzzle together.



Play Cards

There is an opportunity for learning in everything you do together.

Here are ideas for play, age by age. ✂

0-6 MONTHS

- When getting dressed, help baby practice grasping by offering clothing items to hold onto.
- Point to pictures and vary your tone of voice while reading together.
- Do tummy time! Put a mirror in front of baby so she can see facial expressions.



6-12 MONTHS

- While getting dressed, play peek-a-boo with clothing to help baby learn that things they can't see still exist!
- At mealtime, encourage picking up food using the pincer grasp (pointer and thumb).
- During playtime, stack and count plastic cups or rings, or use a shape sorter.



12-24 MONTHS

- Continue trying new foods and talk about their textures and tastes.
- During story time, invite participation and sound making ("What does the dog say?").
- Explore sounds by using pots and pans as musical instruments!



24-36 MONTHS

- When getting dressed, offer a choice between clothing to encourage independence.
- Play Simon Says during bath time to help learn body parts ("Simon Says, wash your elbow!").
- Build with blocks! Count them and talk about their shape and color.
- At bedtime, talk about what happened that day and things that were learned.



3-6 YEARS

- While getting dressed, talk about clothing for different weather.
- Have your little breakfast helper carefully pour cereal or count out plates for the table.
- At bath time, test if different objects will sink or float.
- Play games that involve turn taking, like charades.



Playing Pretend


