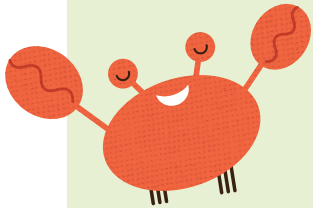


THIS MONTH'S THEME

Sand & Water



Get ready to "dig" into this month's theme, *Sand & Water*! Let's make a splash with bubbles, explore the world of water and investigate the textures of sand in engaging activities with your little one. Join us in exploring the world of learning with a touch of fun and a sprinkle of adventure!

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.



Fill & Spill

How does the child work to understand and participate in a play pattern?

Young Infant

Play a song and place a wet washcloth on the child's arm. Observe how they respond. If the child is engaged, squeeze some of the water out onto their arm. Wait and see if the child communicates for you to continue.

Older Infant

Put water in a bowl or tub and lay a wet washcloth flat on the water. Play a song and pat the washcloth. Observe how the child mimics the patting. Use the washcloth to make an air bubble and pat down the bubble.

Young Toddler

Put water in a bowl or tub and lay a wet washcloth flat on the water. Play a song. Demonstrate how to trap air under the washcloth to make a bubble. Pat the bubble and observe how the child tries to make their own washcloth bubbles.

How does the child use their arms to maintain balance?

Young Infant

As the child plays on their tummy, place a rolled-up blanket under their chest. Observe as the child relaxes on the blanket "dolphin" and pushes themselves up to look around. Listen to a song while exploring.

Older Infant

Put a rolled-up blanket near the child. Play a song. Observe how the child navigates the blanket "dolphin" and how they crawl over it. How does the child lean backward over it, or lie with their belly on it? How do they use their hands?

Young Toddler

Put a rolled-up blanket near the child. Play a song. Invite the child to lie on their belly on the "dolphin" with their hands on the sides and touching the floor. While the song plays, explore rocking from side to side and using hands to maintain balance.

Does the child track the moving object with their eyes, then reach to grab it?

Young Infant

Show the child a colorful ball. Pat and describe the ball. Drop the ball from up high and build anticipation by saying, "1, 2, 3, go!" Watch it drop and bounce. Clap together. Repeat to build memory and anticipation.

Older Infant

Join the child on the floor. Hold a ball in your lap and pat it to entice them. When the child grabs the ball, play a game of "swoop" basketball. While the child holds the ball, swoop them over a box and encourage them to drop the ball into it.

Young Toddler

Join the child on the floor and roll a ball in their direction. Roll it back and forth. Demonstrate how to pick up the ball and drop it into a box. Move the box around the room. Encourage the child to walk while holding the ball and put it in the box.

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.

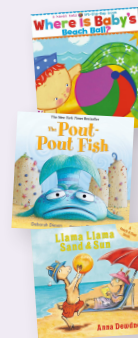
Try this: Include a prop for the child to hold and interact with while reading the story.

How:

- While reading, invite the child to hold a prop, like a ball. Play with it and talk about how that prop is discussed in the story.
- Hold a mirror and explore making happy and sad faces together. Look in the mirror and make kissing sounds.
- Read a story and touch a pan filled with sand at the end of each page. Encourage the child to play with the sand as you read.

Tip of the Month: Hold your baby: Cuddling while you read can make your baby feel safe and connected to you.

BOOKS & NURSERY RHYMES



Where is Baby's Beach Ball?
by Karen Katz

The Pout-Pout Fish
by Deborah Diesen

Llama Llama Sand & Sun
by Anna Dewdney

FIVE LITTLE MONKEYS

Five (Four, Three, Two...)
Little monkeys jumping on the bed,
One fell off and bumped his head.
Mama called the doctor and the doctor said,
"No more monkeys jumping on the bed!"

One little monkey jumping on the bed,
He fell off and bumped his head.
Mama called the doctor and the doctor said,
"Put those monkeys right to bed!"

Reminders and Upcoming Information

