



Essential Baby 2: 2

Age-Appropriate Toys 6-12 Months

By this stage babies are

- ✓ they are usually able to sit by themselves and are learning to crawl.
- ✓ Babies will also be learning fine motor skills, such as pinching and grasping objects with just two fingers, pushing buttons,
- ✓ They have a growing curiosity, and are able to get to a point of interest fairly easily by crawling! Make sure plugs are covered, cords out of the way and dangerous and small choke hazards away.
- ✓ Crawl around the room your self to see what you can find!
- ✓ At this stage you'll want to provide baby with a variety of toys to play with in all shapes and sizes to satisfy the growing curiosity and need to explore.

At this stage introduce...

- ✓ **Cause and effect toys:** why do we use it in this way? Eg stacking blocks, push button toys eg light come son , jack in the box etc Any toys that are interactive/ noisy!
- ✓ **Out door play-** balls, toys with wheels- push / pull toys.
- ✓ **Water play in the bath:** pouring jugs, squeaky toys etc Once he is able to sit on his own. ALWAYS supervise baby whilst they are in the bath.
- ✓ **Language Development :** talk to your baby about what is happening as he plays and DON'T use baby talk. Eg when you push it with your finger it goes up!
- ✓ **Reading:** board books that he can easily manipulate
- ✓ **Role play:** close to their 1st birthday they will start mimicking your actions eg cleaning, using the phone etc. have toys that will encourage this make believe.
- ✓ **Physical challenges:** Don't encourage standing or toys which support the baby walking. Create a place that will stimulate physical development and challenges eg tunnels nd cushions to climb over
- ✓ Toys allow children to explore on their own. Toys should be interesting to look at, safe to mouth, easy to grasp, and fun to bang.
- ✓ When you purchase toys you should check the label for age recommendations.
 - Is your child at the developmental stage for that toy?
 - Is the toy a safe size that can't fit in the mouth or be shaped to fit into the mouth? (use a film canister to check to see if toy is too small)
 - Is the finish on the toy non-toxic and not likely to peel off?
 - Are the ingredients of the toys non-toxic? (paints, crayons)
 - Is the toy washable to reduce germs?
- Avoid buying toys because you like them. Your child may not be developmentally ready for the toy. If the toy is too easy they will become bored and if the toy is too difficult, they will become frustrated.
- Avoid excessive toys. Objects a child can explore, take apart, push or pull, stack, and create with become a toy. Many of the things you have at home become a toy for your child. Purchase toys that have a variety of uses and possibilities.
- Watch for older siblings toys. Have your older child help keep his toys away from the baby