



Did You Know

AT 12-18 MONTHS I CAN —

- crawl well.
- stand and sit alone.
- walk by myself.
- gesture and point to tell you what I want.
- push, pull, and dump things.
- pull off my hat, socks, and gloves.
- turn pages in a book.
- stack two blocks.
- poke, twist, and squeeze things.
- flush toilets and close doors.
- carry small objects while walking.
- hold crayons and scribble.
- wave bye-bye and clap my hands.
- use a spoon and a cup, but I can still be messy while eating.
- roll a ball back and forth.
- say 8 to 20 words.
- look at the person I am talking to.
- say "Hi" and Bye" if I'm reminded.
- use expressions like "Uh-Oh"
- point to objects in a book.
- play peek-a-boo.
- look for items that are hidden.
- follow simple one-step directions.
- take things apart.
- get upset when I'm separated from my parents.
- hand objects to others.
- play alone on the floor with my toys.
- recognize myself in the mirror or in pictures.
- imitate others.
- sing sounds to music and dance.
- play with messy things like play dough, food, and water.
- solve problems by trial and error.

YOU CAN HELP ME LEARN & GROW YOU CAN—

- talk to me often and allow me to talk back to you. This will increase my language skills and encourage my cooperation.
- use bath, diapering, and dressing time to point to some body parts and say them with me.
- relax and have fun with me by dancing to music. Encourage me to bounce, sway, and wiggle with you.
- review your baby-proofing techniques. I am very active; make sure there is nothing in the house that can hurt me.
- get down on the floor with me to roll, crawl, play peek-a-boo, and pass a ball back and forth. This will help in the development of my large and small motor skills.
- sing nursery rhymes to me. I love to sing along with you.
- take me outdoors and encourage me to walk, run, climb, and jump.
- provide a variety of simple picture books so I can point at objects, animals, and people as you name them or read to me from a book. Encourage me to turn the pages.
- let me play with pots and pans. I like to put my toys in them and bang on them with wooden kitchen utensils.
- put together a box of items that are fun to feel, poke, and squeeze. You might include clean margarine tubs, socks, tissue paper to crumple, measuring cups of dif-

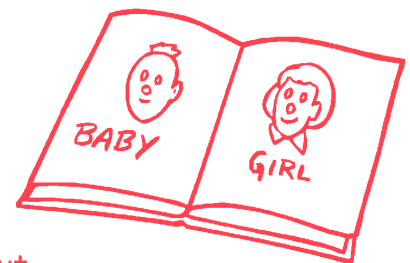
ferent sizes for nesting, egg cartons, paper cups, etc. Make sure these things are not sharp or dangerous and make sure they are not small enough that I could choke.

SAFETY TIP: *DO NOT* use toilet paper rolls for any activity due to the possibility of coming in contact with germs that can cause a potential sickness.

TOYS THAT TEACH

"Picture Me" Picture Book (12-15 months)

Homemade picture books will help me learn about myself, where I live, my family and simple words like my name. There is nothing more special for me than a story in which I am the main character!



Materials: Pictures from magazines, greeting cards, newspapers, family photos, etc., nontoxic glue, cardboard, blank book, or photo album.

Make your own personal picture books using greeting cards, photos, and familiar odds and ends. Buy a blank book, lace together pieces of cardboard, or use a photo album to assemble your baby's story. Place the pictures on the pages to tell a story about your baby's life. For instance, combine the alphabet with bits of personal and familiar pictures. The "G" page could have a picture of a girl, a picture of Grandma and Grandpa, a giggling person, and a picture of a giraffe. Picture books using personal pictures are wonderful; they will fascinate your baby and can be used as keepsakes for years to come.

Teaching Textures Treasure Box (15-16 months)

This toy will help me learn about different ways that things feel. It will also help me learn to tell one item from another. This toy gives me a chance to collect and learn about the shapes, colors, and sizes of different objects and materials.

Materials: Small cardboard box (shoebox), crayon, small touch treasures of different textures collected by child, nontoxic glue.

Print your child's name in large letters with the crayon on top of the box. With the child's help, glue small pieces of different textures and shapes inside the box. You can include pieces of sandpaper, scraps of cloth, fur, sticks, toys, shiny lids, rocks, etc. You can take nature walks to collect items like leaves, cones, rocks, flowers, etc. Make sure these things are not sharp or dangerous and make sure they are not small enough to choke your child.

Your toddler will enjoy looking at and touching the things in the treasure box. Encourage your child to tell you about the objects. Discuss which ones are hard or soft, which ones are round or square. You and your baby or toddler can take turns "talking" about the objects.

Hot Potato Tossing Bag (17-18 months)

This toy will help me develop muscles and coordination.



Materials: Clean scraps of cloth or old adult socks, crumpled paper or strips of cloth for stuffing.

Make the bag by sewing squares or other shapes of cloth or by tying ends of adult socks. Fill your bag with crumpled paper or torn rags and sew up or tie the opening. For safety, double the bag covers and make the bags at least as big as tennis balls.

Children can toss the bags at targets, into wastebaskets or back and forth to other people. You can also tie a string to the bag, and attach it to a playpen or a high chair for drop-and-pull-back games.

SAFETY TIP: Be sure that all toys, or the parts on toys, you give your baby are larger than the end of an empty paper towel roll and will be safe in his mouth. Toys, or the parts on toys, for children younger than 3 years old should not be smaller than 1 1/4 inches in diameter or 2 1/4 inches long. Any part small enough to fit inside a paper towel roll could cause your child to choke.

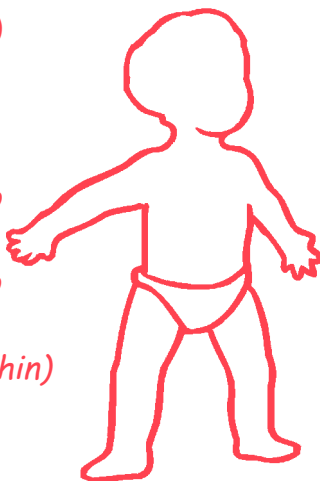
PLAY THESE FINGER PLAYS WITH ME

Pat a Cake

Pat a cake, pat a cake, baker's man!(Clap four times in rhythm)
Bake me a cake as fast as you can. (Cup hands)
Pat it, and dot it, and mark it with a B, (Perform this action)
And put it in the oven (Extend both hands)
For baby and me. (Point to child and then to self)

All of Me

See my eyes. (Point to eyes)
See my nose. (Point to nose)
See my chin. (Touch chin)
See my toes. (Touch toes)
See my waist. (Hands on waist)
See my knee. (Touch a knee)
Now you have seen all of me! (Raise arms)



Ten Little Fingers

I have ten little fingers and they all belong to me. (*Hands upright*)
I can make them do things would you like to see?
I can shut them up tight; (*Shut them into fists*)
Or open them wide. (*Open them wide*)
I can put them together, or make them all hide. (*Close fists together*)
I can make them jump high. (*Swing hands above head*)
I can make them go low. (*Swing hands down low*)
I can fold them up quietly and hold them just so. (*Place in lap*)



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Publication 2351

Extension Service of Mississippi State University, cooperating with U.S. Department of Agriculture. Published in furtherance of Acts of Congress, May 8 and June 30, 1914. JOE H. MCGILBERRY, Director (10M-10-04)