

ICA Kaleidoscope

Play to Learn Learn to Play



**Activities for Parents and Caregivers of
Children from Birth Through 3 Years Old**

K. Elise Packard, Ph.D.



Play to Learn, Learn to Play is a companion book to a literacy curriculum, *Parents are Teachers*. Both books are a part of *The Learning Basket Approach* to stimulating learning with parents and children in the first three years.

For more information about the method and this program, contact:

Learning Basket Program
(773) 769-6363 ext 222

“Before you say, ‘Another book on playing and learning!’ read this. It conveys a powerful message: that every parent, whatever ethnic group or chosen religion, whether mother or father, able or disabled, rich or poor, is a vital partner to the growth of very young children.

This book’s sensitive and creative presentation assures that it could become a handbook for parents worldwide.”

Bernice Weissbourd
President and Founder of Family Focus
Family Support America
Board Member, Zero to Three

“Play to Learn, Learn to Play, with its accompanying Learning Basket® gets to the very heart of joyful learning and loving. The activities acknowledge the baby as a partner in growth and attunement, right from the start. The clarity and ‘everydayness’ of the suggestions, gives earnest but sometimes beleaguered parents a simple way of connecting to their children. It provides a do-able pathway into the notion that we learn best within the context of warmth and joy.”

Ida Anne Cardone, Ph.D, Assistant Professor of Pediatrics
Northwestern University Medical School
Director, Perinatal Family Support Center

What is being said about *Play to Learn* and the Learning Basket® approach

“*Play to Learn* is one of those rare accessible instruments that can enhance and support the parent-child alliance just when it needs to get on the right track. Simple but not simplistic, it speaks instantly to the world’s parents of peaceful, mutually enjoyable learning.”

Kyle B. Pruett, M.D.
Clinical Professor of Psychiatry
Yale Child Study Center and Medical School
Author, *Me Myself and I*; *The Fatherneed*
President, *Zero to Three*

“For most infants and toddlers their parents are their first and best love. *Play to Learn* and the Learning Basket® approach are wonderful tools which provide children and parents delightful time to cultivate that love through learning and playing together.

Alicia Lieberman, Ph.D.
Prof. of Psychiatry, Univ. of California, San Francisco
Senior Psychologist, Infant-Parent program
Author, *The Emotional Life of the Toddler*
Board Member, *Zero to Three*

“There is great hope in *Play to Learn* and the Learning Basket® for fathers finding something to do with their babies that makes sense to them, that lets them see their babies show off, that lets them find a way to be together and for both to feel supported.”

Michael Trout
Director, The Infant-Parent Institute
Founding President, The International Association for Infant
Mental Health

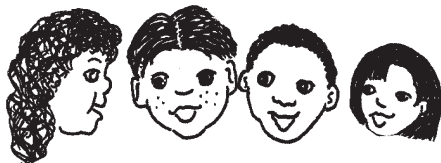
Dedication

This book is dedicated to my family --
a source of wisdom and joy.

It is also dedicated to the families of the South,
who have taught me a great deal.

Our thanks to all who

The Children



Gabe & Dylan Harm
Sierra Curtis
David Spencer
Jacob Roy Chapman

Bailey, Jeff & Alex Blethen
Hannah & Leah Otto
Kalee Mahr
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The Institute of Cultural Affairs (ICA)
Laubach Literacy LDS Charities

made this book possible!

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A Young Child

Cognitive



See, Hear,
Touch



Quantities



Recognizing
Patterns



Body
Movement



Hand-Eye
Coordination



Recognizing
Language



Rhythm,
Music, Song



Sorting



Using
Language



Relating
to Objects



Ordering
Sequence



Alphabet
& Sounds

123...

Numbers

Learns in Many Ways.

Social



**Cooperative
Play**



**Relationship
to Others**



**Relationship
to Things**



**Relationship
to Nature**

Personal



**Self
Awareness**



Self Identity



**Confident
Action**



Feelings

Imaginal



Wonder



Values



**Exploration
& Discovery**



Creativity

Adults are Important



Parents are a child's
first teacher.



A child depends on the care of adults
during his first years.

to Young Children



A child learns from
everything she experiences.



Children are a precious resource.
Caring for them serves life.

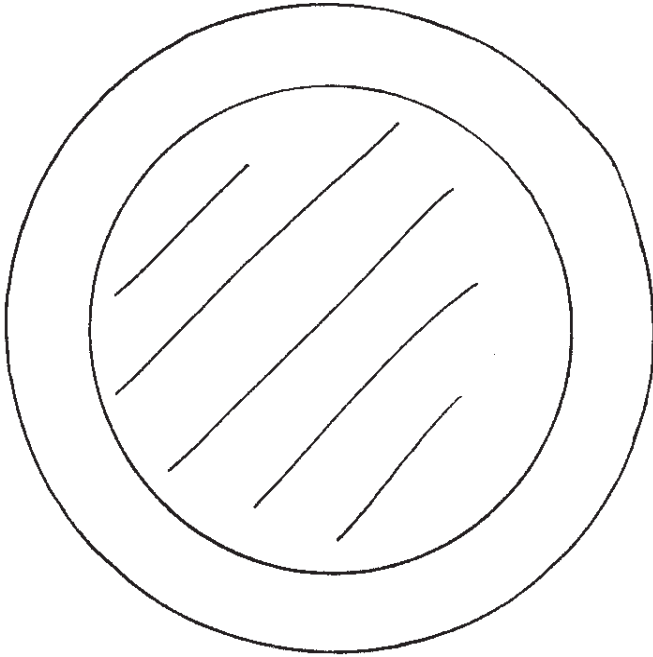
We share one world.



We can live together
and learn from
each other.



The Mirror



The Mirror

0-6 Months
Seeing



Show the baby her face
in the mirror.

How the baby can learn:



6-12 Months
Grabbing



Hold the mirror in front
of the baby's hands.
Ask him to grab the mirror.

How the baby can learn:



12-18 Months
Discovering



Ask the baby to make faces
looking in the mirror.
Name the faces she makes.

How the baby can learn:



**Relationship
to Things**



**Self
Awareness**



**Recognizing
Language**

18-24 Months
Imitating



Ask the baby to make the faces
that you make in the mirror.

-First a happy face

-Then a sad face

-Then an angry face

You make the faces the baby makes.

How the baby can learn:



Relationship
to Others



Recognizing
Patterns



Confident
Action

24-36 Months
Brushing



Tell the child to brush her hair.
Hold the mirror for her to
see her hair.

Tell the child to brush her teeth.
Hold the mirror for her to
see her teeth.

What the child can learn:



**Exploration
& Discovery**



**Confident
Action**



**Self
Awareness**



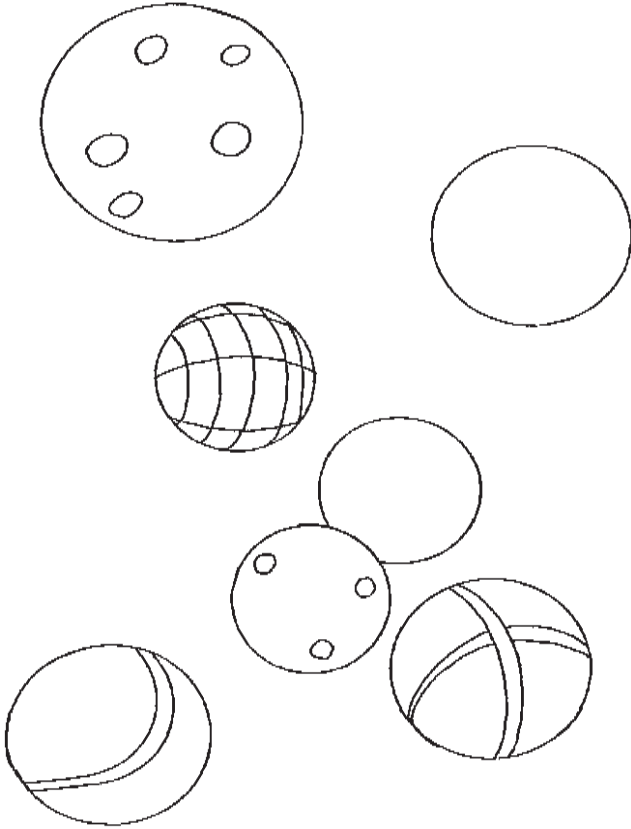
Self Identity



**Relationship
to Things**

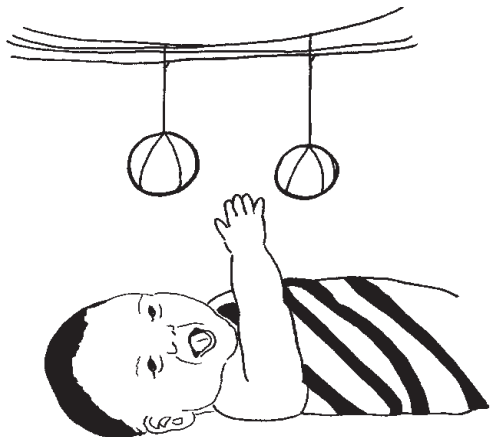
**Write or draw your own ideas
on how to use the mirror:**

The Colored Balls



The Colored Balls

0-6 Months
Seeing



Hang the scarf over the baby's head. Include red, black and white balls.

How the baby can learn:



0-6 Months
Touching



Touch the baby's hands, face
and feet with a colored ball.
Name the color of the ball as
it touches the baby.

How the baby can learn:



6-12 Months
Grabbing



Ask the baby to reach for and grab the colored balls.
When the baby grabs the ball, smile and clap.

How the baby can learn:



12-18 Months
Counting



Help the child count the balls.
Name and count each color.

What the child can learn:



123...

Numbers



18-24 Months
Sorting

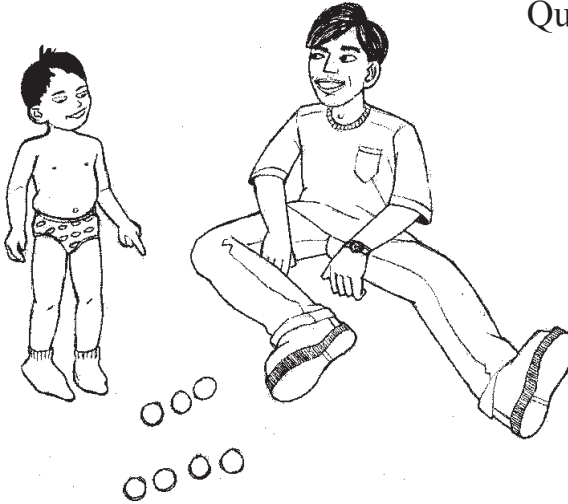


Help the child sort the balls by colors. Tell him what a good job he is doing.

What the child can learn:



24-36 Months
Quantities

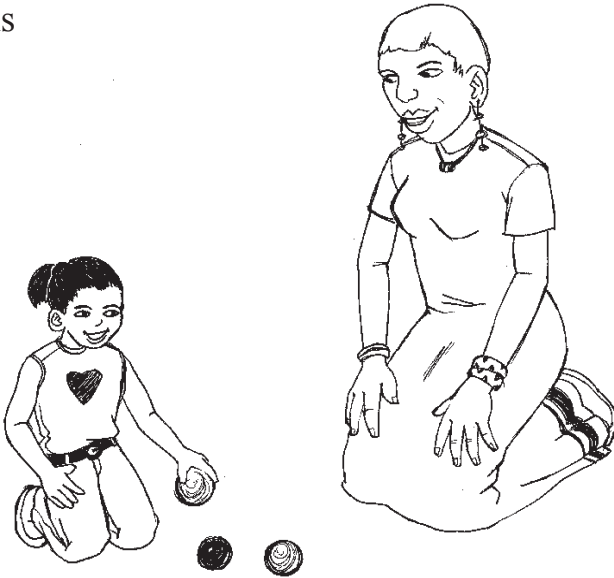


Create two groups of balls. Count the balls in each group. Create two different groups. Count the balls in each group. Tell him he is doing a good job.

What the child can learn:



24-36 Months
Patterns



Arrange the balls in a pattern: red, blue, red. Name the colors. Ask the child to create the same pattern. Ask the child to create a pattern, and then you repeat the child's pattern.

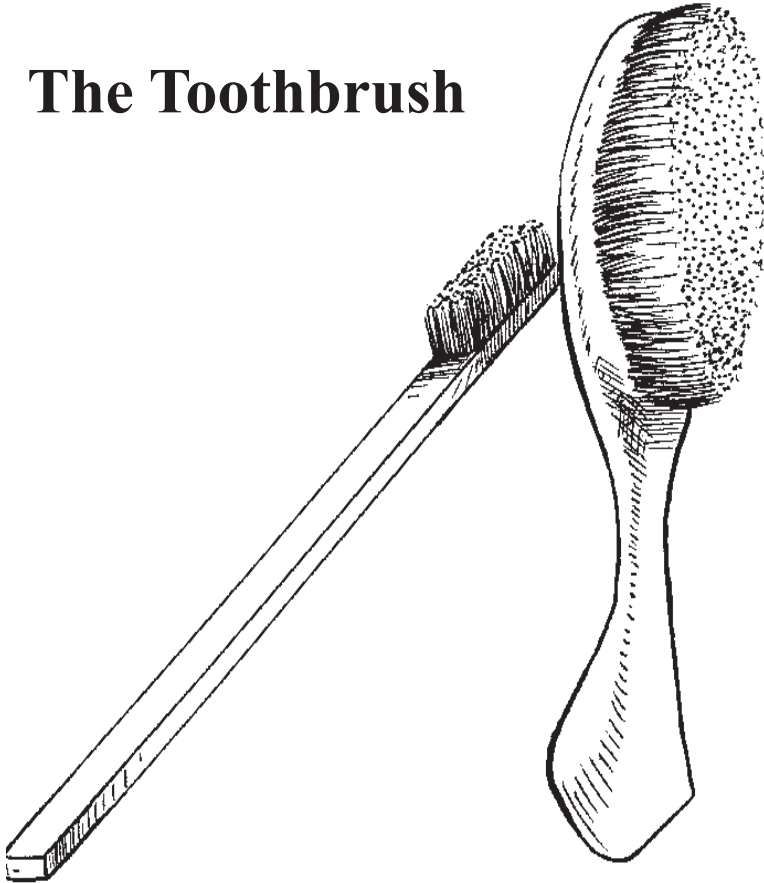
What the child can learn:



**Write or draw your own ideas
on how to use the colored balls:**

The Brushes

The Toothbrush



The Hairbrush

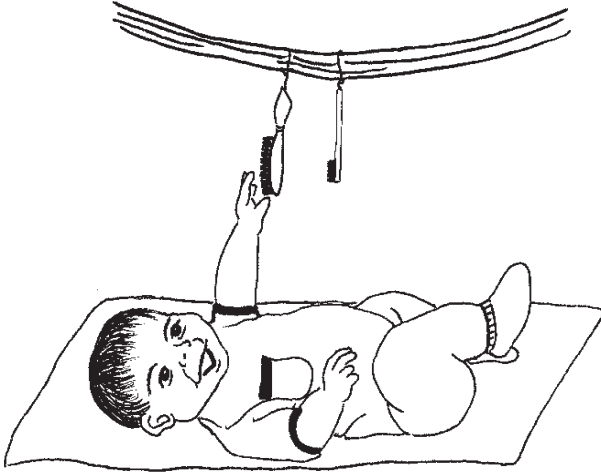
0-6 Months
Seeing



Show the toothbrush and the hairbrush to the baby. Say, ‘This is a hairbrush. This is a toothbrush.’

How the baby can learn:





Hang the hairbrush and the
toothbrush on the scarf,
over the baby.

How the baby can learn:

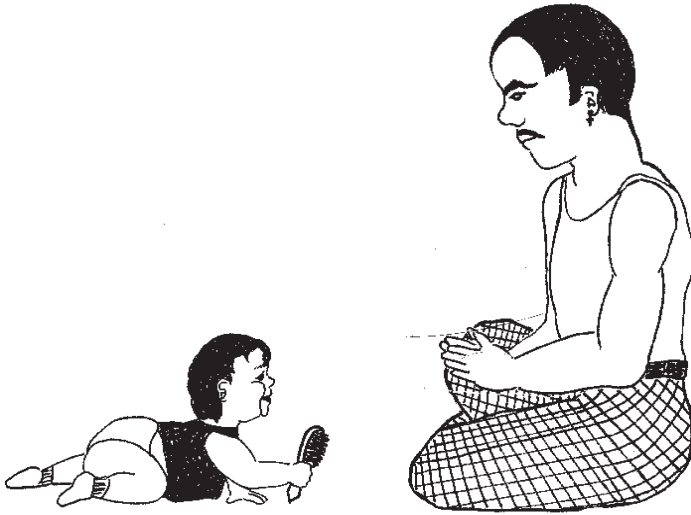


**See, Hear,
Touch**



**Relationship
to Things**

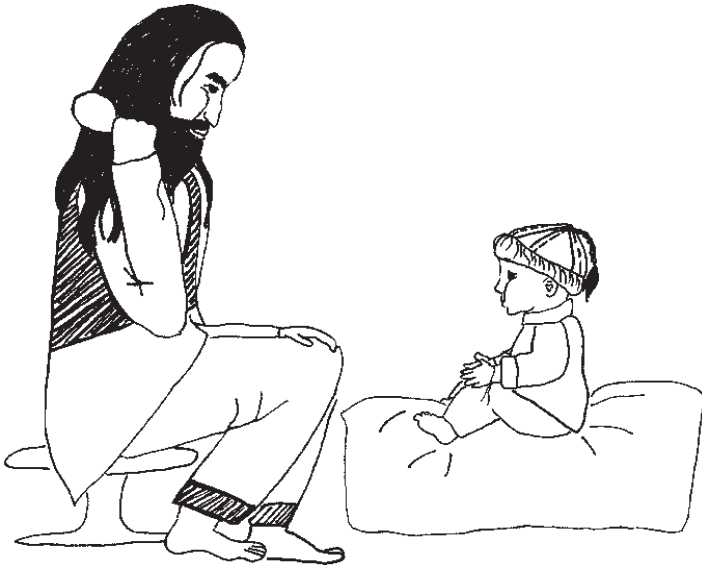
6-12 Months
Touching and Grabbing



Ask the baby to touch and grab the brushes. When the baby grabs the brushes, smile and clap.

How the baby can learn:





Show the baby how the brushes are used. Tell the baby how you are using the brushes.

How the baby can learn:



12-18 Months
Brushing



Help the child use the brushes.

What the child can learn:



18-24 Months
Brushing



Watch the child brush his hair.
Tell him that he is doing well.
He is caring for himself.

What the child can learn:



**Cooperative
Play**



**Confident
Action**



**Recognizing
Language**



**Hand-Eye
Coordination**

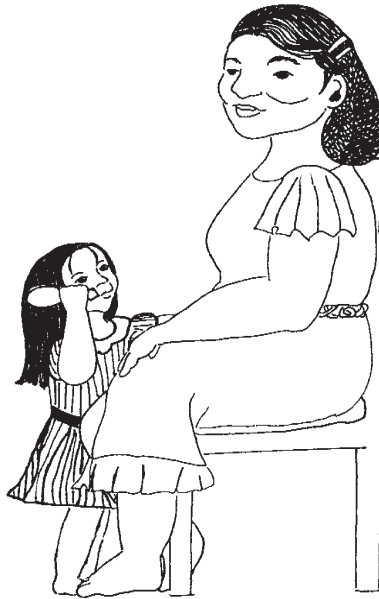


**Body
Movement**



Values

24-36 Months
Brushing



As she uses the brushes, ask the child to tell you what she is doing. Repeat what she says.

What the child can learn:



Cooperative Play



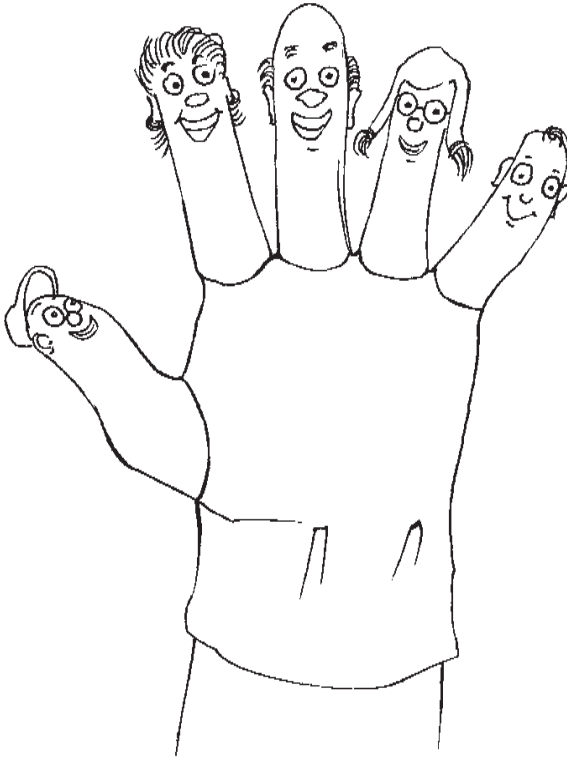
Relationship to Others



Hand-Eye Coordination

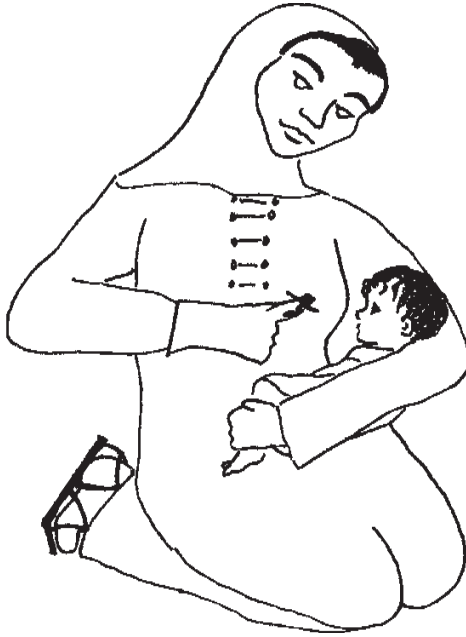
**Write or draw your own ideas
on how to use the brushes:**

The Puppets



The Family Puppets

0-6 Months
Seeing and Listening



Show the baby each puppet, and give each puppet a name. Say, ‘This is the sister. Her name is Julia.’

How the baby can learn:



**See, Hear,
Touch**



**Recognizing
Language**



**Relationship
to Others**



Feelings



Tell stories to the baby using the puppets. Use the puppets' names.

How the baby can learn:



Feelings



**Recognizing
Language**



Values



**Relationship
to Others**



Self Identity



**See, Hear,
Touch**

12-18 Months
Listening and Speaking

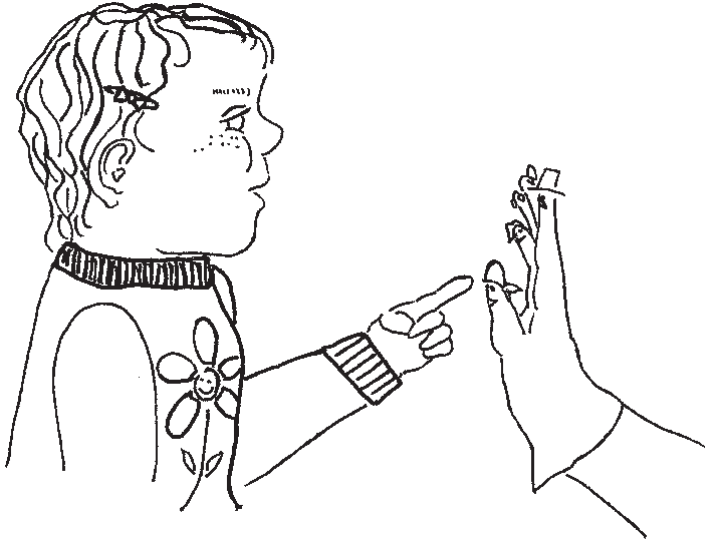


Name each puppet person. Say,
“This is Robert. Hello, Robert!”

What the child can learn:



18-24 Months
Recognizing



Name each family member and show each puppet. Ask the child to point to each family member as you name them.

What the child can learn:



**Using
Language**



**Relationship
to Others**



**Confident
Action**

18-24 Months
Naming



Ask the child to point to each puppet family member, and to name them. Begin the phrase: ‘This is _____.’

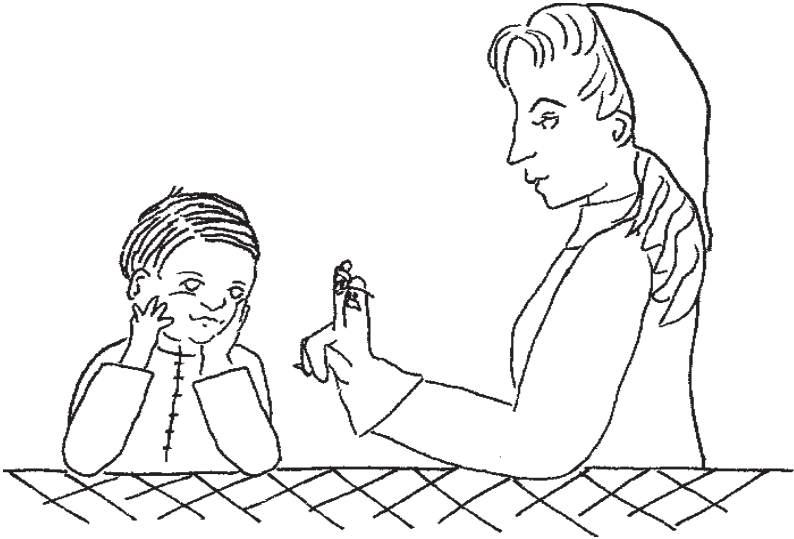
What the child can learn:



**Recognizing
Language**



**Confident
Action**

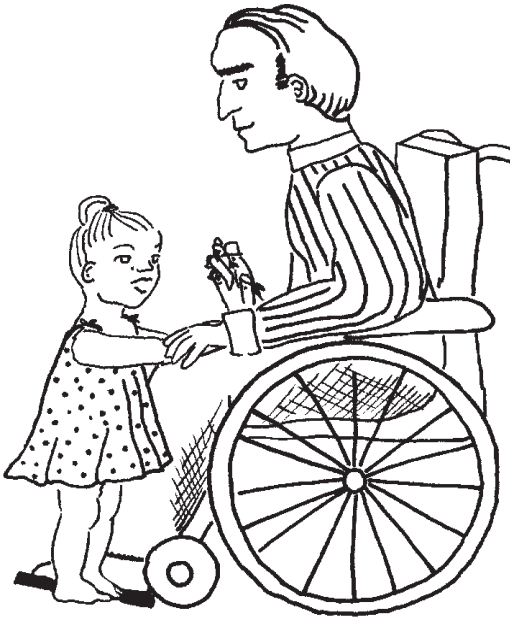


Show two of the puppets: Say, 'These are children.' Show the mother and father: Say, 'These are adults. Which ones are children?'

What the child can learn:



24-36 Months
Storytelling



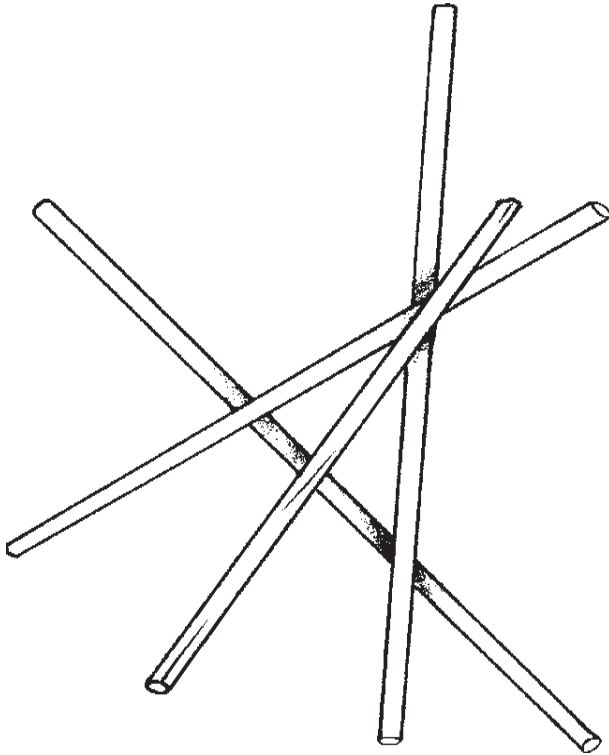
Ask the child to tell you a story about the family. Whatever the child says is her story. Repeat what she says.

What the child can learn:



**Write or draw your own ideas
on how to use the family puppets:**

The Straws



The Colored Plastic Straws

0-6 Months
Feeling



Blow air on the baby's face.
Does she like it?

How the baby can learn:



0-6 Months
Seeing and Feeling



Blow soap bubbles above the baby's head. Let the bubbles fall on her face. Does she like it?

How the baby can learn:



0-6 Months
Seeing and Hearing



Show the baby how you blow soap bubbles in the water. Tell the baby what you will do before you do it. Ask, 'Do you like the bubbles?'

How the baby can learn:



**See, Hear,
Touch**



**Recognizing
Language**



**Cooperative
Play**



**Relationship
to Nature**



**Relationship
to Things**



Feelings



Wonder

6-12 Months
Reaching and Grabbing



Blow soap bubbles above the baby's head. Ask the baby to reach and grab the bubbles. Ask, 'Do you like this?'

How the baby can learn:



**Hand-Eye
Coordination**



**Cooperative
Play**



Feelings



**Confident
Action**



**Body
Movement**



**Relationship
to Nature**



**Exploration
& Discovery**



**See, Hear,
Touch**



Wonder

12-18 Months
Blowing Air



Ask the child to blow air through the straw. Tell him how it feels.

What the child can learn:



**Hand-Eye
Coordination**



**Relating
to Objects**



**Recognizing
Language**



**Relationship
to Nature**



**Exploration
& Discovery**



**Confident
Action**



**Body
Movement**



Wonder



**Cooperative
Play**



Ask the child to blow bubbles in water. Tell her that she is doing a good job.

What the child can learn:



24-36 Months
Blowing Soap Bubbles



Ask the child to blow soap bubbles.
Smile, clap, and try to catch the bubbles.

What the child can learn:



**Body
Movement**



**Confident
Action**



**Cooperative
Play**



Creativity



**Relationship
to Nature**



Wonder

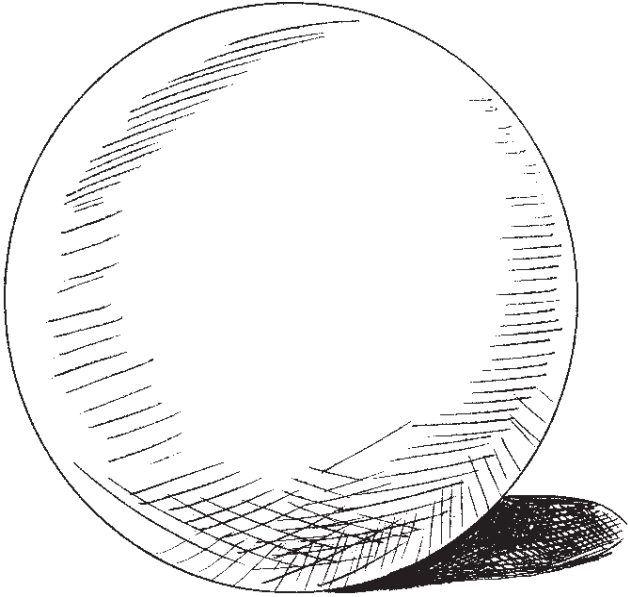


**Exploration
& Discovery**



**Relating
to Objects**

**Write or draw your own ideas
on how to use the straws:**



The Ball

0-6 Months
Seeing



Throw the ball in the air so the baby can see it. Say, ‘This is a ball.’

How the baby can learn:



**See, Hear,
Touch**



**Recognizing
Language**



**Relationship
to Things**

0-6 Months
Touching



Ask the baby to touch the ball and feel the texture. Say, ‘The ball is rough and round.’

How the baby can learn:



6-12 Months
Rolling



Ask the baby to get the rolling ball.
Smile and clap when he touches the ball.

How the baby can learn:



6-12 Months
Grasping



Ask the baby to hold onto the ball.

How the baby can learn:



**Recognizing
Language**



**Relationship
to Things**



**See, Hear,
Touch**



**Body
Movement**



**Confident
Action**

6-12 Months
Hide and Seek



Hide the ball under the blanket.
Ask, 'Where is the ball?'

How the baby can learn:



6-12 Months
Rolling



Roll the ball back and forth. Sing a simple song as you roll the ball.

What the baby can learn:



12-18 Months
Throwing



Ask the child to throw the ball.
You catch and fetch the ball.

What the child can learn:



18-24 Months
Fetching



Roll the ball down a board. Say,
‘The ball rolls down. Can you get it?’

What the child can learn:



**Body
Movement**



**Cooperative
Play**



**Hand-Eye
Coordination**

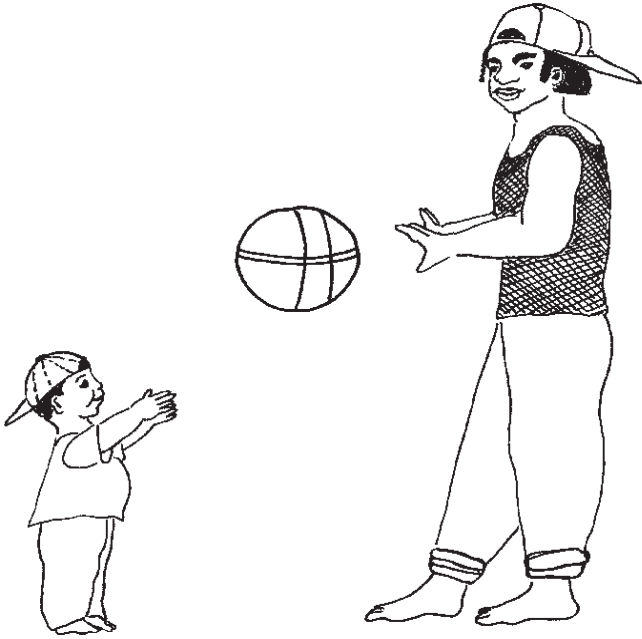


**Confident
Action**



**Relating
to Objects**

24-36 Months
Catching



Throw the ball to the child. Smile and clap when he catches it.

What the child can learn:



24-36 Months
Kicking and Leading



Tell the child to kick the ball and to go get it. Follow her as she follows the ball.

What the child can learn:



Creativity



**Confident
Action**



**Exploration
& Discovery**



**Hand-Eye
Coordination**



**Relationship
to Things**



**Body
Movement**

24-36 Months
Following Directions



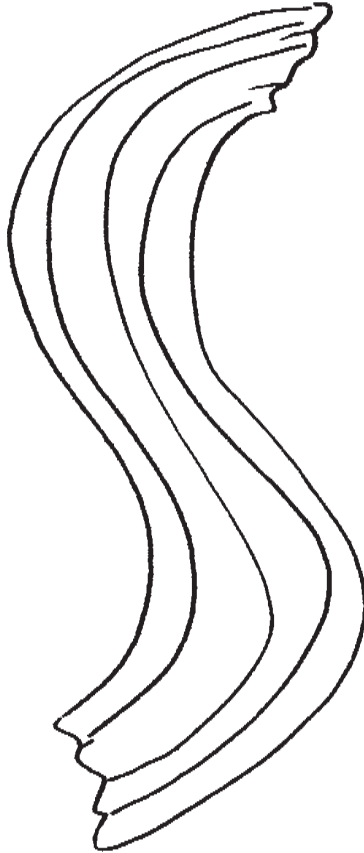
Ask the child to roll the ball, and then to throw the ball. Smile and clap as she follows the directions.

What the child can learn:



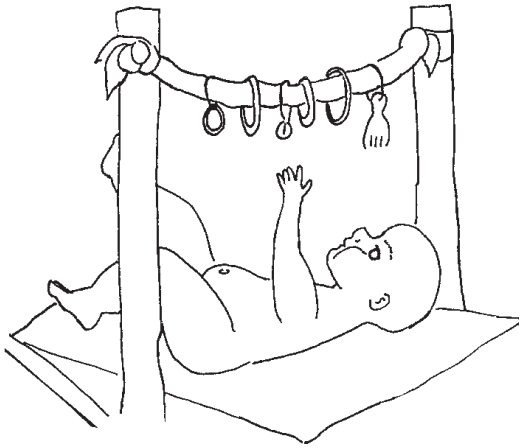
**Write or draw your own ideas
one how to use the ball:**

The Scarf



The Colorful Big Scarf

0-6 Months
Seeing



Tie the scarf over the baby's bed.
Hang objects from the scarf.

How the baby can learn:



**See, Hear,
Touch**

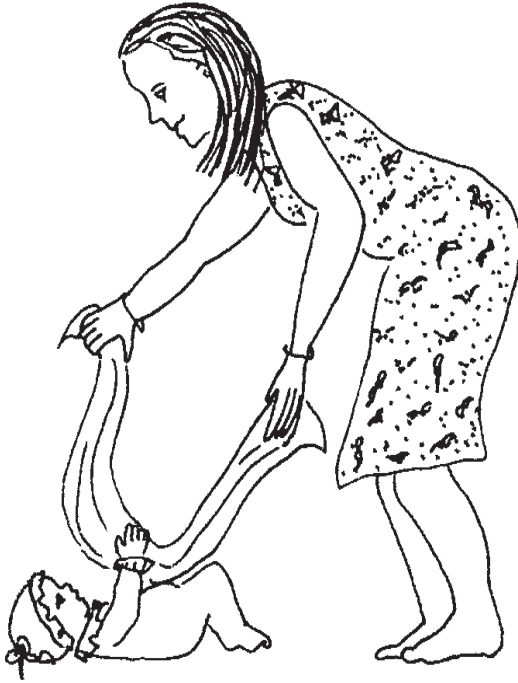


**Relationship
to Things**



**Hand-Eye
Coordination**

0-6 Months
Seeing and Feeling



Wave the scarf above the baby.
Let it touch her face and hands.

How the baby can learn:



**Cooperative
Play**



**See, Hear,
Touch**



**Relationship
to Things**



**Hand-Eye
Coordination**

6-12 Months
Following



Tie an object on the end of the scarf.
Ask the baby to follow the object.

How the baby can learn:



**Relating
to Objects**



**Cooperative
Play**



**Recognizing
Language**



**Body
Movement**



**Hand-Eye
Coordination**

12-18 Months
Dancing



Give the child the scarf. Let her dance to music. Dance with her.

What the child can learn:



18-24 Months
Listening



Tell the child a story using the scarf as a river. Ask, ‘Does that story make you happy or sad?’

What the child can learn:



**Recognizing
Language**



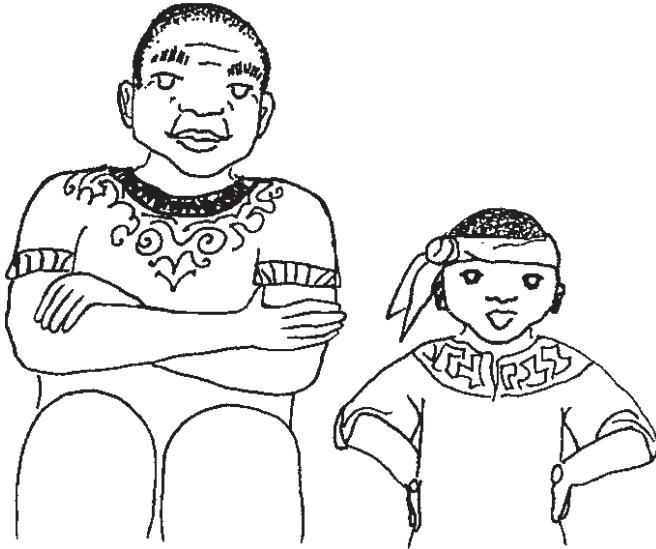
**Cooperative
Play**



Feelings



Creativity



Let the child use the scarf for
make believe. Learn from him.

What the child can learn:



**Relationship
to Things**



**Confident
Action**



**Exploration
& Discovery**



Creativity

24-36 Months
Dress Up



Show the child how to use the scarf for dress up. Help her put it on in different ways.

What the child can learn:



Using Language



Relationship to Others



Exploration & Discovery



Recognizing Language



Cooperative Play



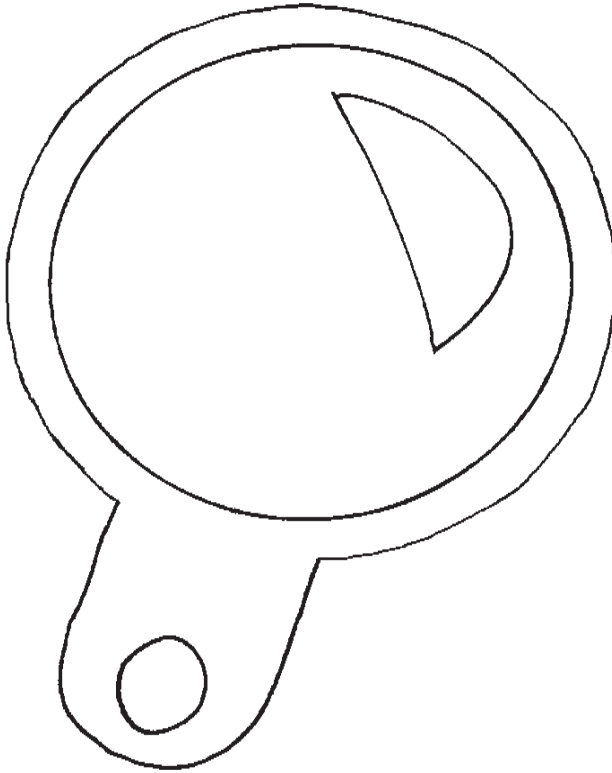
Confident Action



Creativity

**Write or draw your own ideas
on how to use the scarf:**

The Magnifying Glass



The Magnifying Glass

0-6 Months
Seeing



Show the baby a small object through the magnifying glass. Say, ‘Come look through the magnifying glass.’

How the baby can learn:



6-12 Months
Crawling



Ask the baby to come get the magnifying glass. Smile and clap when she touches it.

How the baby can learn:



12-18 Months
Observing



Show the child many different objects through the magnifying glass. Name each object. Do this outside.

What the child can learn:



18-24 Months
Recognizing Size



Show the child an object. Say,
‘This is small.’ Then show the
object under the magnifying glass.
Say, ‘Now it is big!’

What the child can learn:



**Relating
to Objects**



**See, Hear,
Touch**



**Relationship
to Nature**



**Exploration
& Discovery**



**Cooperative
Play**



**Recognizing
Language**

24-36 Months
Exploring

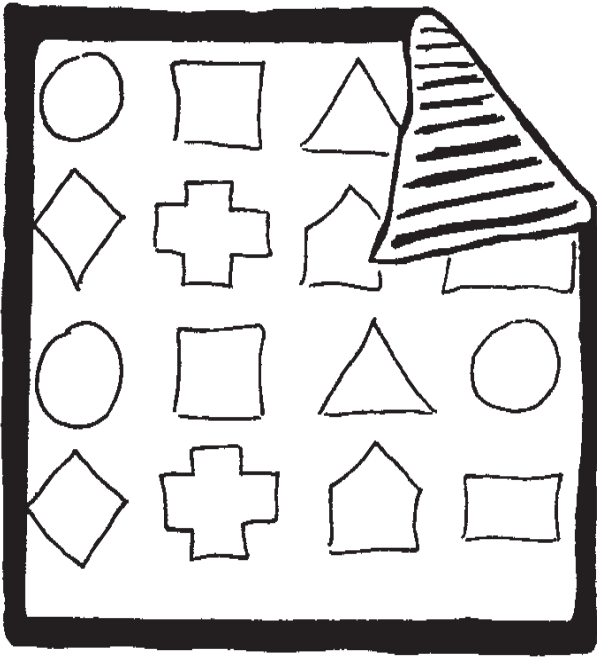


Ask the child to hold the magnifying glass. Ask her what she sees.
Repeat what she says.

What the child can learn:

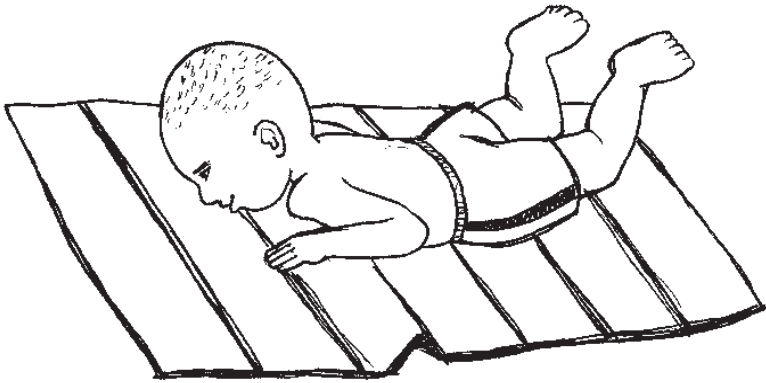


**Write or draw your own ideas on
how to use the magnifying glass:**



The Stimulation Quilt

0-6 Months
Seeing



Put the baby on the quilt so that she can see the black and white lines.

How the baby can learn:





Sit the baby on the quilt as you play. Say ‘I am going to put you on this quilt.’

How the baby can learn:



12-18 Months
Walking



Ask the child to come get the quilt.
Smile and clap as he takes first steps
Say, 'It's okay!' if he falls.

What the child can learn:



18-24 Months
Naming Colors and Shapes



Point to colors and shapes. Say,
‘This is blue,’ and ‘This is a triangle.’
Ask, ‘What is this?’

What the child can learn:



**Using
Language**



**Relationship
to Things**



**Recognizing
Patterns**



**Recognizing
Language**



**Confident
Action**

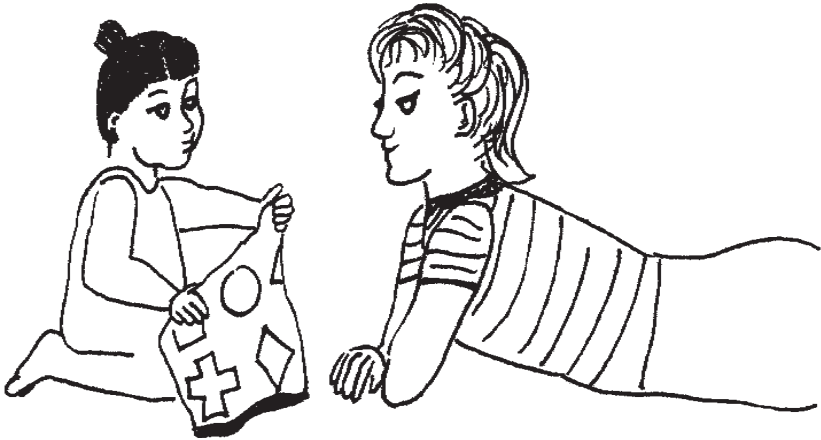


**Cooperative
Play**



**See, Hear,
Touch**

24-36 Months
Story Telling



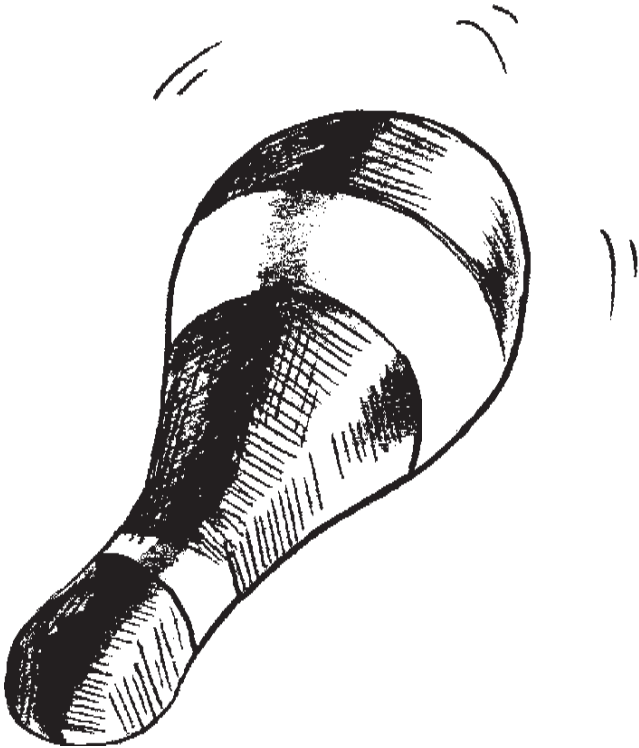
Tell a story using the quilt. Let the child add parts to the story. Then ask her to tell a story.

What the child can learn:



**Write or draw your own ideas
on how to use the quilt:**

The Rattle



The Rattle

0-6 Months
Hearing

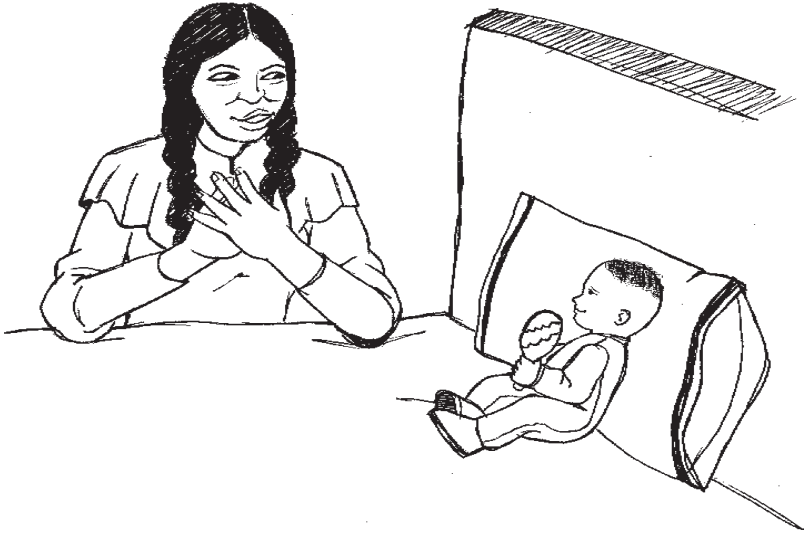


Shake the rattle to create a beat.
Sing a song to the beat.

How the baby can learn:



0-6 Months
Grasping



Help the baby grasp the rattle.
Clap to the beat he creates.

How the baby can learn:



**Exploration
& Discovery**



**Relationship
to Things**



**Confident
Action**



**Body
Movement**



**Hand-Eye
Coordination**



**Cooperative
Play**

6-12 Months
Crawling



Shake the rattle. Ask the baby to come get the rattle. Give him the rattle.

What the baby can learn:



**See, Hear,
Touch**



**Cooperative
Play**



**Body
Movement**



**Recognizing
Language**



**Confident
Action**

12-18 Months
Dancing



Dance to the rhythm of the rattle.
Take turns creating the beat.

What the child can learn:



18-24 Months
Leading



Ask the child to lead a parade and create a beat. Follow where he goes, moving to the beat.

What the child can learn:



**Rhythm,
Music, Song**



**Exploration
& Discovery**



**Relationship
to Things**



**Confident
Action**



**Relationship
to Others**



Creativity



**Body
Movement**



**Cooperative
Play**

18-24 Months
Hearing and Naming



Shake the rattle with force.
Say, 'This is loud.' Shake the
rattle lightly. Say, 'This is soft.'

What the child can learn:



24-36 Months

Hearing and Repeating Rhythm



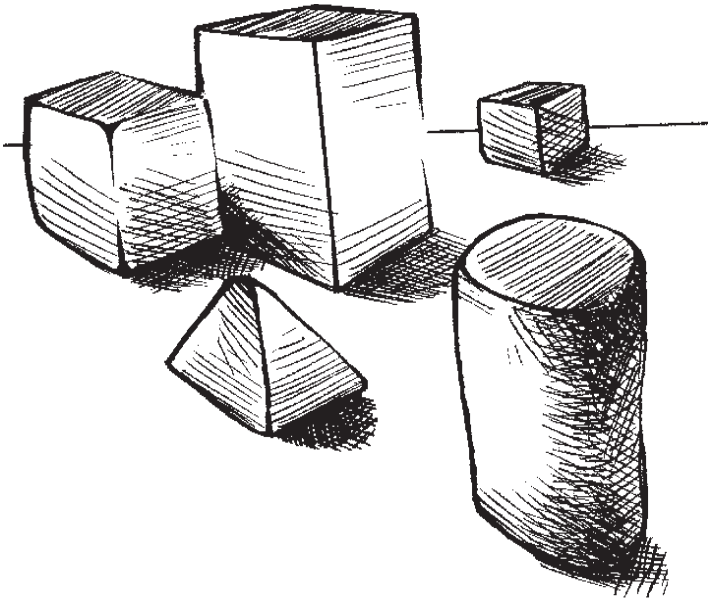
Ask the child to clap to the rhythm that you create. Ask, ‘Is this sound loud? Is this sound soft?’

What the child can learn:



**Write or draw your own ideas
on how to use the rattle:**

The Blocks



The Blocks

0-6 Months

Seeing, Hearing, and Feeling



Show the blocks to the baby. Say, 'This is a square block. This is a round block.' Let the baby touch the blocks.

How the baby can learn:



**Recognizing
Language**



**Exploration
& Discovery**



**Relationship
to Things**



**Relating
to Objects**

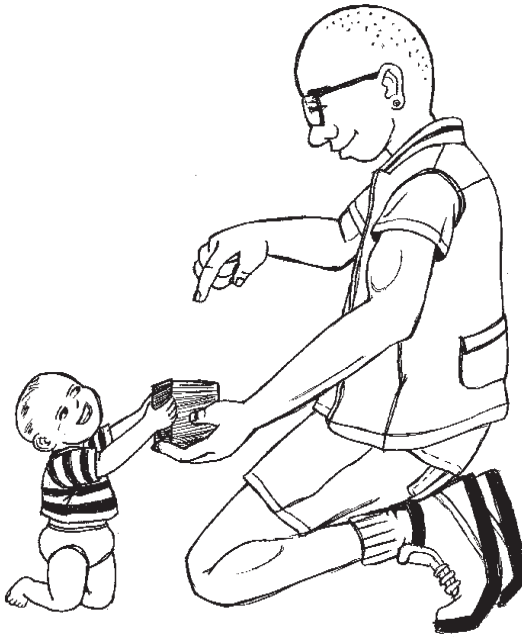


**Cooperative
Play**



**See, Hear,
Touch**

6-12 Months
Grasping



Hold the block so that the baby can grasp it. Say, 'You take the block.'

How the baby can learn:



12-18 Months
Breaking Down



Make a building with the blocks. Ask the child to break it down. Smile and laugh when he breaks the building down.

What the child can learn:



Cooperative Play



Relating to Objects



Confident Action



Exploration & Discovery



See, Hear, Touch

12-18 Months
Creating a Beat



Give two blocks to the child.
Ask her to beat them together.
Do what she does.

What the child can learn:



18-24 Months
Building



Ask the child to make a house with the blocks. Say, 'What a great house'.

What the child can learn:



18-24 Months
Counting



Take turns dropping blocks into a container. Count as each block drops.

What the child can learn:



24-36 Months
Sorting



Ask the child to put all the blocks that are the same together. Name how the blocks are the same.

What the child can learn:



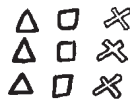
**See, Hear,
Touch**



**Relating
to Objects**



**Recognizing
Language**



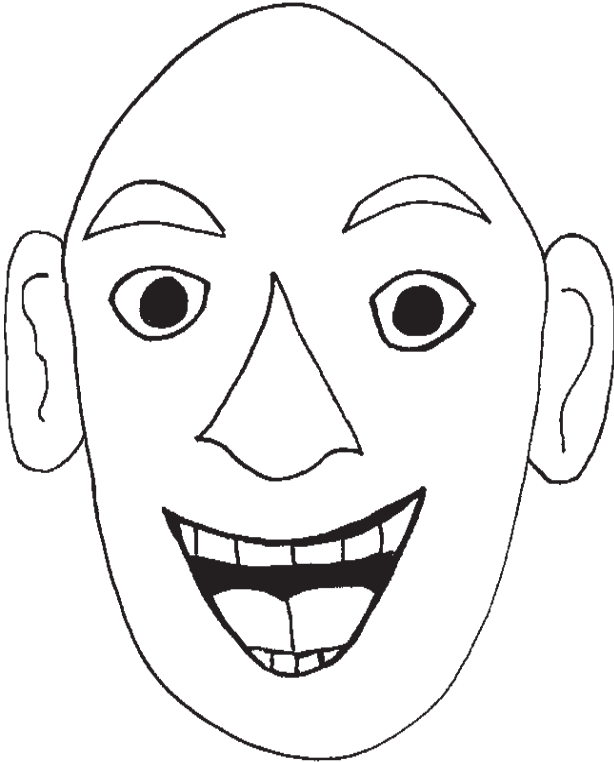
Sorting



**Confident
Action**

**Write or draw your own ideas
on how to use the blocks:**

The Face Shapes



The Face Shapes

0-6 Months
Seeing and Hearing



Show the face shapes to the baby.
Put each shape on the face.
Name each shape.

How the baby can learn:



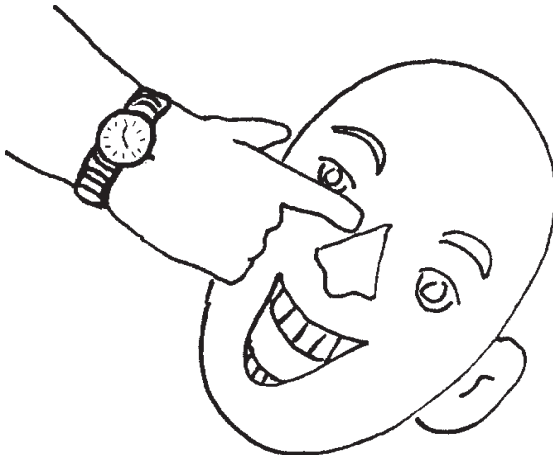
**See, Hear,
Touch**



**Recognizing
Language**



**Cooperative
Play**

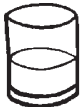


Point to each part. Say, 'There are two eyes. There is one mouth.'

How the baby can learn:



See, Hear,
Touch



Quantities



Recognizing
Language



Cooperative
Play

12-18 Months
Naming and Imitating



Point to the nose. Say, 'Point to your nose.' Say, 'Nose.'
Repeat for other parts.

What the child can learn:





Ask the child to point to the parts.
Point to your own face, naming
the part. Say the name together.

What the child can learn:



24-36 Months
Story Telling



Ask the child to arrange the face parts and to tell a story. Enjoy the story he tells.

What the child can learn:



Using Language



Confident Action



Relationship to Others



Cooperative Play



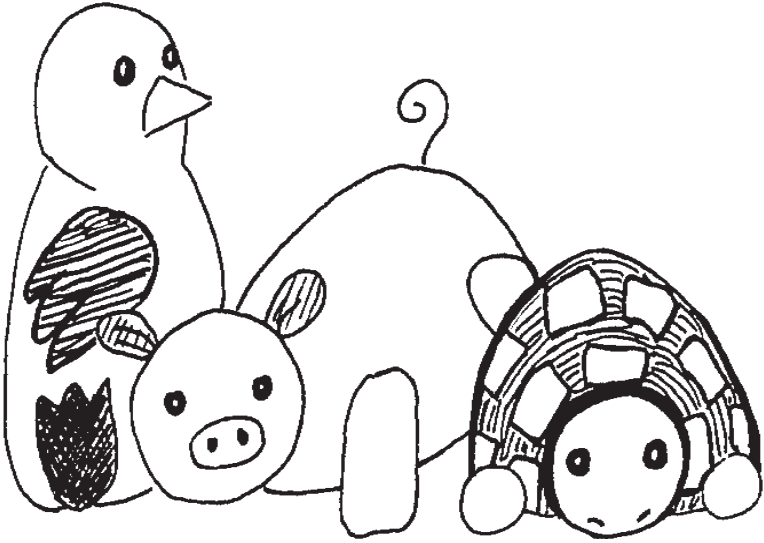
Feelings



Creativity

**Write or draw your own ideas
on how to use the face shapes:**

The Animal Forms



The Animal Forms

0-6 Months
Seeing, Touching, and Hearing



Show the animal forms to the baby.
Say, ‘This is a bird. The bird says
‘chirp.’ Repeat with each animal.
Let the baby touch the animals.

How the baby can learn:



6-12 Months
Crawling, Grabbing, and Speaking



Ask the baby to come get the
bird. Ask him to say 'Chirp.'
Repeat with each animal.

How the baby can learn:



12-18 Months
Listening and Speaking



Tell a story about the animals. Ask the child to repeat each animal's name.

What the child can learn:



**Recognizing
Language**



**Relationship
to Nature**



Values



**Using
Language**



**Confident
Action**



**Cooperative
Play**

18-24 Months
Imagining and Speaking



Let the child play with the animals.
Say, 'Tell me about the animals.'

What the child can learn:



Creativity



**Cooperative
Play**



Feelings



**Relationship
to Nature**



**Using
Language**



**Recognizing
Language**



**Exploration
& Discovery**

24-36 Months
Sorting



Ask the child to put all the animals that are the same together. Look for all those that are small; those that have four legs; those that bite.

What the child can learn:



**Recognizing
Patterns**



**Cooperative
Play**



**Confident
Action**



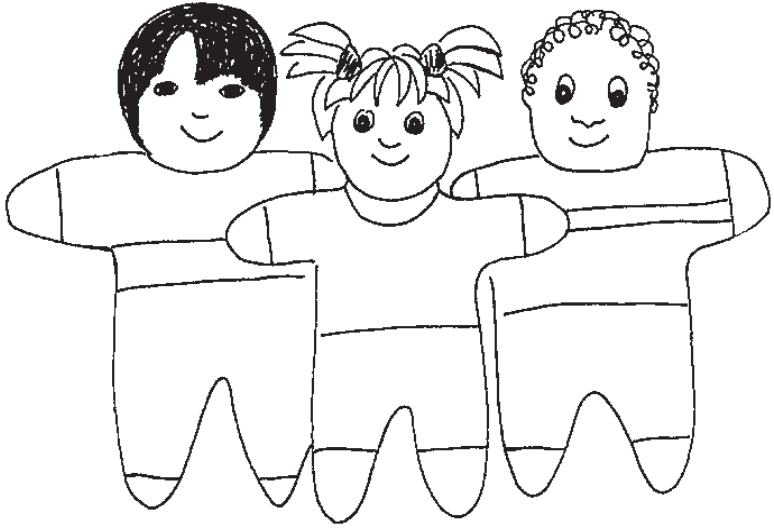
**Relationship
to Nature**



**Recognizing
Language**

**Write or draw your own ideas
on how to use the animal forms:**

The Diversity Dolls



The Diversity Dolls

0-6 Months
Seeing, Touching, and Hearing



Show the dolls to the baby. Say, ‘This baby has brown skin. This baby has black skin.’ Repeat for all the dolls.

How the baby can learn:



Self Identity



**Relationship
to Others**



**Cooperative
Play**

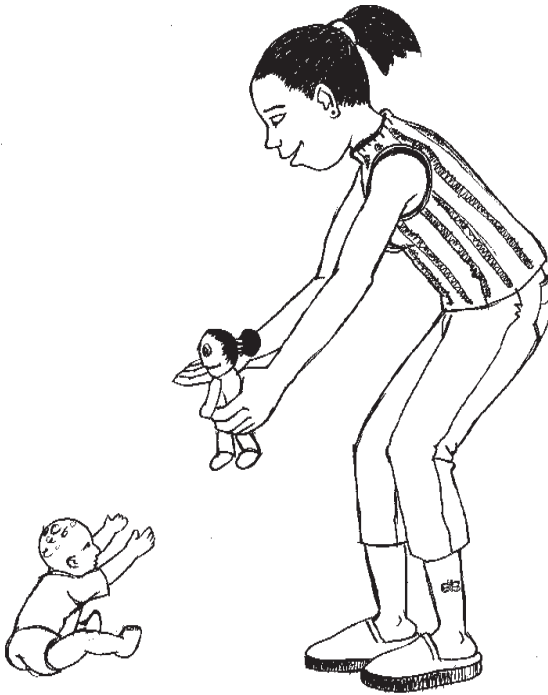


**Recognizing
Language**



**See, Hear,
Touch**

6-12 Months
Grasping



Hold the doll up. Say, 'This is a pretty baby. Take the baby.'

How the baby can learn:



**Confident
Action**



Values



**See, Hear,
Touch**



**Body
Movement**



**Cooperative
Play**



**Recognizing
Language**



**Relationship
to Others**



**Hand-Eye
Coordination**

12-18 Months
Naming



Show the doll to the child. Name each body part. Ask the child to repeat.

What the child can learn:



**Recognizing
Language**



**Relationship
to Others**



**Using
Language**



**Cooperative
Play**



**Confident
Action**

18-24 Months
Listening and Speaking



What the child can learn:



**Using
Language**



**Cooperative
Play**



Feelings



**Relationship
to Others**



**Confident
Action**

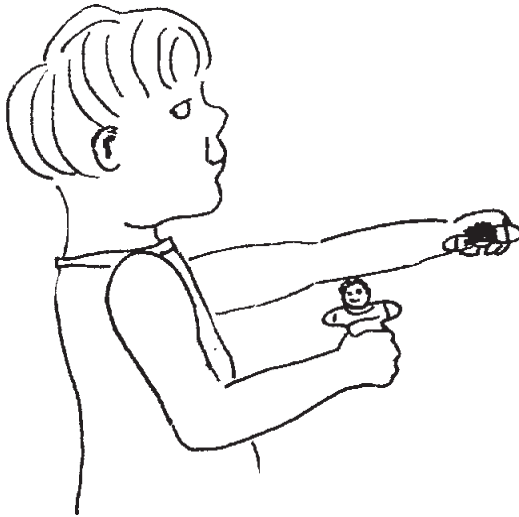


Values



**Recognizing
Language**

24-36 Months
Imagining and Speaking



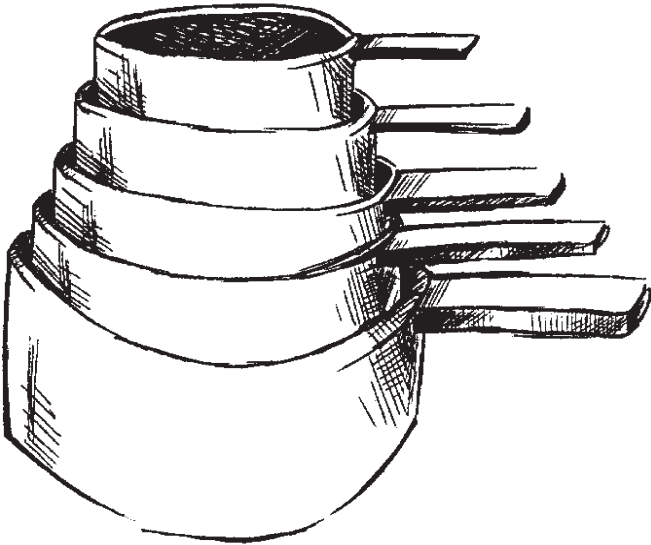
Ask the child to tell you a story about the dolls. Listen and repeat what she says.

What the child can learn:



**Write or draw your own ideas on
how to use the diversity dolls:**

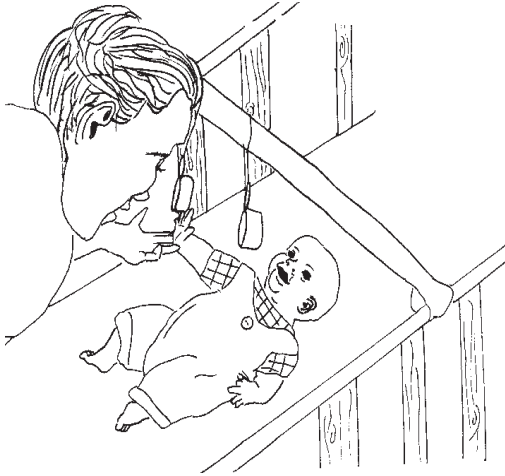
The Nesting Cups



The Nesting Cups

0-6 Months

Seeing, Touching and Hearing



Hang the cups on the scarf, above the baby's waist. Help the baby touch the cups. Say, 'These are cups.'

How the baby can learn:



**See, Hear,
Touch**



Creativity



**Cooperative
Play**



**Using
Language**



**Exploration
& Discovery**



**Relating
to Objects**

6-12 Months
Seeing and Hearing



Show the baby how the cups fit together.
Say, 'This is a big cup.
This is a smaller cup.'

How the baby can learn:



12-18 Months
Making sound



Show the child how to hit two cups together to create a sound. Repeat the rhythm that she creates.

What the child can learn:



**Cooperative
Play**



**Relationship
to Others**



**Hand-Eye
Coordination**

18-24 Months
Pouring



Show the child how to pour sand from one cup to another.

Say, “You are pouring sand”.

What the child can learn:



**Hand-Eye
Coordination**



**Relationship
to Others**



**Cooperative
Play**



**Relationship
to Nature**



**Body
Movement**



**Confident
Action**

24-36 Months
Ordering



Ask the child to put the cups inside each other. Say, 'Put the smaller cup inside the big cup.'

What the child can learn:



Values



**Cooperative
Play**



**Confident
Action**



**Body
Movement**



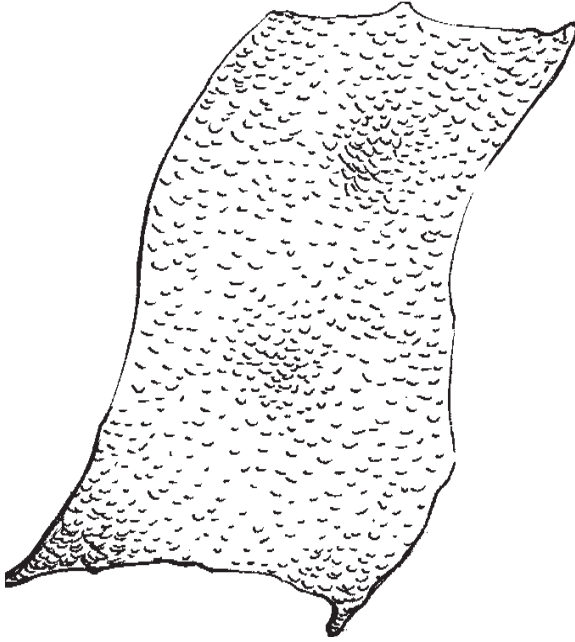
**Hand-Eye
Coordination**



**Ordering
Sequence**

**Write or draw your own ideas on
how to use the nesting cups:**

The Crocheted Cloth



The Crocheted Cloth

0-6 Months
Touching and Hearing

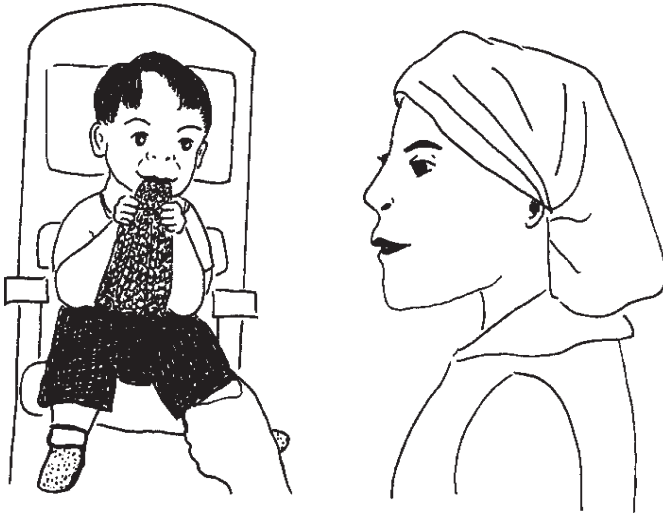


Touch the baby's face with the cloth.
Say, 'This cloth is soft.'

How the baby can learn:



6-12 Months
Grabbing and Teaching



Let the baby hold the cloth and
chew on it. Ask, 'Do you
like the cloth?'

How the baby can learn:



12-18 Months
Squeezing and Splashing



Show the child how to squeeze water from the cloth. Let him squeeze and splash by himself.

What the child can learn:



18-24 Months
Bathing



Show the child how to use the cloth to bathe herself. Ask, 'Do you like the water?'

What the child can learn:



**Body
Movement**



**Relationship
to Others**



**Relationship
to Nature**



**Self
Awareness**



**Exploration
& Discovery**



**Recognizing
Language**



**Confident
Action**



Feelings



Wonder

24-36 Months
Wiping



Ask the child to wipe the table with the cloth. Say, ‘You are a good helper!’

What the child can learn:



**Recognizing
Language**



**Relationship
to Others**



**Exploration
& Discovery**



**Relating
to Objects**



**Confident
Action**

**Write or draw your own ideas on
how to use the crocheted cloth:**

The Dressing Doll



The Dressing Doll

0-6 Months

Seeing, Touching and Hearing



Show the doll to the baby. Let her touch it. Say, 'This is a doll with clothes.'

How the baby can learn:



**Recognizing
Language**



**Relationship
to Things**



**Cooperative
Play**



**See, Hear,
Touch**



**Relationship
to Others**

6-12 Months
Holding and Hearing



Give the doll to the baby. Say,
‘This doll’s name is _____.’
Do you like _____?’

How the baby can learn:



12-18 Months
Seeing and Hearing



Show the child how to dress and undress the doll. Name each item of clothing. Say, 'This is a vest. It is like your vest.'

What the child can learn:



Relating to Objects



Cooperative Play



Recognizing Language

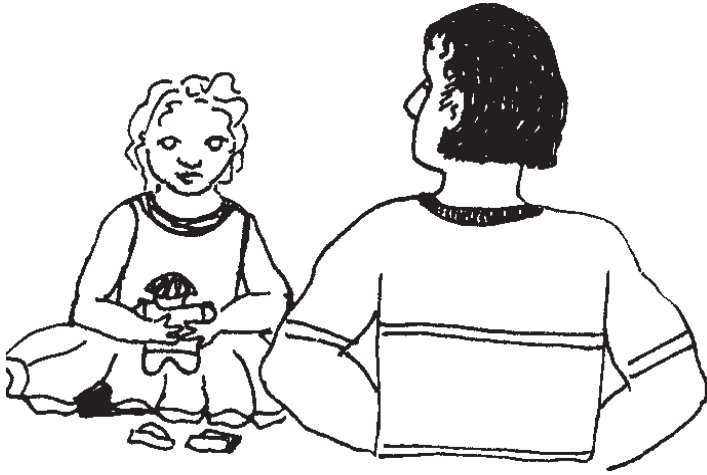


Relationship to Others



Self Identity

18-24 Months
Caring for Others
Speaking

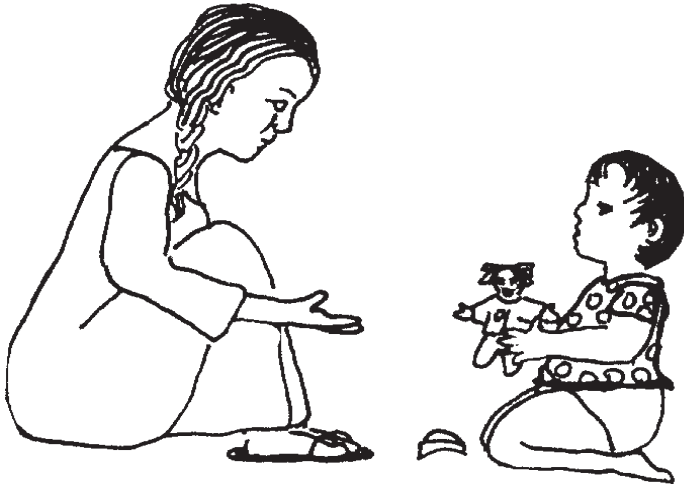


Help the child dress and undress the doll. Point to each item of clothing. Ask, 'What is this?'

What the child can learn:



24-36 Months
Caring for Others



Watch the child dress and undress the doll. Say, 'You are taking care of _____ . You are being a helper.'

What the child can learn:



**Confident
Action**



**Relationship
to Others**



**Relating
to Objects**



**Body
Movement**



Values



**Self
Awareness**



**Hand-Eye
Coordination**



**Recognizing
Language**

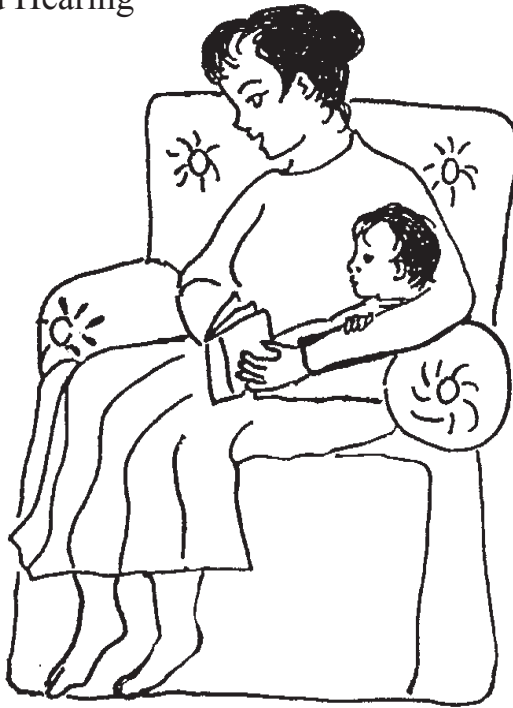
**Write or draw your own ideas on
how to use the dressing doll:**

The Book



The Book

0-6 Months
Seeing and Hearing



Read the book to the baby. Show him the words and pictures on each page.

How the baby can learn:



**Relationship
to Things**



**Alphabet
& Sounds**



**Recognizing
Language**

123...

Numbers



**Cooperative
Play**

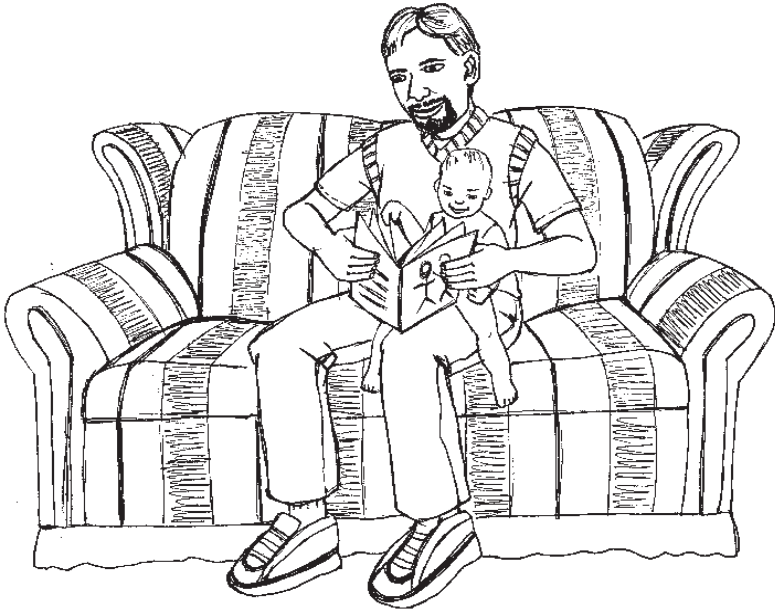


**Exploration
& Discovery**



**See, Hear,
Touch**

6-12 Months
Seeing, Touching and Hearing



Read the book to the baby. Ask her to turn the page. Ask, 'Do you like this book?'

How the baby can learn:



**Exploration
& Discovery**



**Cooperative
Play**

123...

Numbers



Feelings



**Alphabet
& Sounds**



**Recognizing
Language**



**Relationship
to Things**



**Body
Movement**

12-18 Months
Seeing, Touching and Speaking



Ask the child to repeat the words that you read in the book. Read and point to each word.

What the child can learn:



Cooperative Play



Relationship to Things



Confident Action



Recognizing Language



Alphabet & Sounds



Using Language



Exploration & Discovery

123...

Numbers



Ask the child to name the objects in the book. Ask, ‘What things do you like? What things do you not like?’

What the child can learn:



24-36 Months
Telling Stories



Ask the child to tell you a story about each picture. Whatever she says is a good story.

What the child can learn:



**Cooperative
Play**



**Exploration
& Discovery**



**Using
Language**



**Relationship
to Things**



Creativity

**Write or draw your own ideas
on how to use the book:**

Keeping the Objects Clean



Wash the objects often with warm water and soap. Make sure they are totally dry before you pack them away.

What the child can learn:



**Confident
Action**



**Cooperative
Play**



**Ordering
Sequence**



**Body
Movement**



**Recognizing
Language**



Values



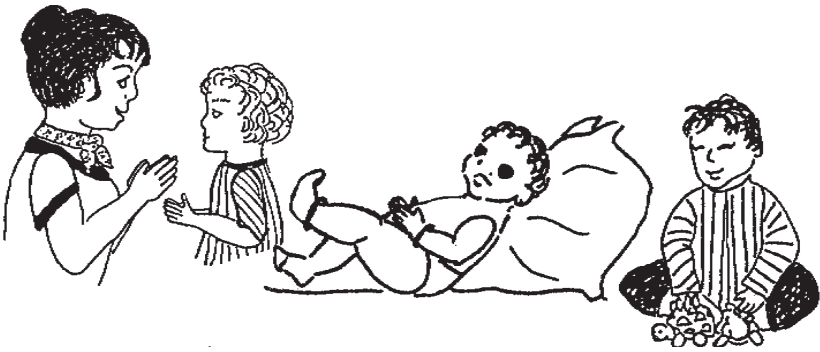
**See, Hear,
Touch**



**Relationship
to Things**



Self Identity



About the Author

K. Elise Packard has spent over 30 years doing community development work in the United States and around the world. She has lived and worked in rural villages and marginal urban neighborhoods in the Philippines, Chile, Peru and Kenya as well as major urban centers in the United States.

Her interest in early intervention in learning began in the volunteer work that she did as a teenager in her home town of El Paso, Texas on the US-Mexico border. In 1968 her university studies led her to Kibbutz Yagur in Israel to study the child rearing practices with infants and toddlers in the children's houses. She also traveled to Iran that year to study early intervention with infants and toddlers in an orphanage setting.

In community development work with the Institute of Cultural Affairs, Elise contributed research to pioneering work in teaching infants and toddlers and has initiated pre-school programs in villages in Chile and Peru. A central aspect of this work has been relating to village mothers and young women; helping them to become effective teachers at home and in school settings.

Elise and her husband George have had the pleasure of raising their two children, Truman and Maicah, in the village and neighborhood settings where they have worked. This book is an expression of gratitude for the rich experience that they have gained.

“In the Learning Basket® program I saw a metamorphosis take place with parents. The Basket and the *Play to Learn* book provided a way for parents’ confidence to bloom. Parents became aware that they had much to teach their children, their peers, and staff members like me. I was delighted!”

Joyce Fair
Infant-Toddler Training Coordinator
Carole Robertson Center for Learning, Chicago

“The Learning Basket® training and materials are simple, straight forward, and anyone can pick up the information. All they need is the will. Such useful tools – especially for those beginning new programs.”

Jean Wood
Chair for Treaty 6 First Nation
Head Start
Alberta, Canada

“We look forward to continuing to use the Learning Basket® approach in our program. It has helped provide new and exciting opportunities for us to work on the goals of the Family Support Project, which include building trusting family relationships, promoting healthy childhood development, and promoting positive parent-child interaction.”

Patti O’Donnell
Family Support Project Coordinator
Howard Area Community Center, Chicago