

Basic Foundations

Birth to Three Years — Science

Infants and toddlers are natural explorers and scientists. They are actively learning about the physical and social world every day. (Lally, J.R. , et al. 1995)

Inquiry and Process



Young children are learning when they —

- * Follow objects—just watching you walk around a room helps them discover.
- * Show curiosity in objects and sounds—when they want to grab, hold, turn and twist everything they get their hands on.
- * Anticipate and navigate around environmental barriers—learning that crawling around the table, not under it, is safer.
- * Get inside things to explore—whether it is a box that they can crawl into or a bag that they can pull things out of, they are learning to inquire about the world around them.

Adults are being supportive when they —

- * Allow the infant to “mouth” things—by touching and feeling objects with their mouth, babies are learning about shapes, sizes and different textures.
- * Talk to the child about things they are doing—explaining what you are doing when giving the child a bath helps the child learn to be curious about other things adults do.
- * Provide security while the child explores—letting them know that you are there to catch them while they are learning to walk..
- * Serve as a positive, exploring role model—when children see adults doing new things, they are excited about trying something new.

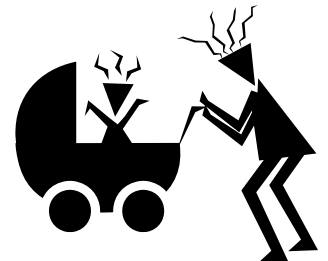


Websites for Fun and Ideas—

www.sensory-processing-disorder.com/infant-play-activities.html

www.healthykids.com

www.pbs.org/wholechild/index.html



Based on the
FOUNDATIONS to the Indiana Academic Standards
for Young Children from Birth to Age 5
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