



Play offers your child
a unique opportunity
to become a capable,
confident, and successful
learner.

There are five areas essential to your child's healthy development. Find more supportive learning experiences for your child on the following pages in the **Massachusetts Early Learning Guidelines for Infants and Toddlers**, downloadable from the Early Education and Care website: www.mass.gov/eec

Toddlers (12 to 33 months) →
Infants (birth to 15 months) →

1	Social-Emotional Development	p. 31	p. 101
2	Language and Communication Development	p.47	p. 120
3	Cognitive Development	p. 65	p. 144
4	Physical Health and Well-Being	p. 80	p. 153
5	Approaches to Learning (this brochure)	p. 83	p. 163



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Department of
Early Education and Care

Sherri Killins, Ed.D., Commissioner

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Early Education Consultants:

Susan Etheredge, Ed.D., Professor and Chair of Education and Child Study, Smith College, Northampton, MA

Cathy Weisman Topal, M.A.T. Visual Studies, Lecturer and Studio Art Teacher, Smith College, Northampton, MA

Illustrations by Melissa Iwai

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Learn with me!



Your child
learns through
interaction
and play.

Play together with your child..



You foster the foundation
of brain development
and learning during the first
3 years of your child's life.

Things You Can Do with Your **Baby**

Activities for Approaching Learning through the Senses

Seeing

Give your child opportunities to see a variety of indoor and outdoor environments. **Look! A mother duck with her ducklings!**



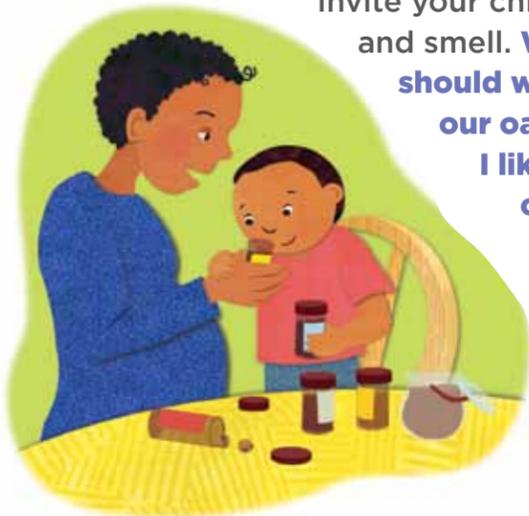
Touching

Comfort your baby with a soothing touch. **Doesn't this make your feet feel good? This little piggy...**



Smelling

Invite your child to stop and smell. **Which one should we add to our oatmeal? I like the cinnamon.**



Tasting

Offer your baby different flavors and textures. It often takes a few tries to develop new tastes. **I ground up peaches with brown rice for you today.**



Hearing

Pay attention to sounds of everyday life. **That's the washing machine spinning—that means our clothes are almost clean.**



Things You Can Do with Your **Toddler**

Activities for Approaching Learning through the Senses

Extending

Add a new challenge to your toddler's play to help them reinforce skills and help build new ones. **Yesterday you built a house. What else does your house need?**



Collaborating

Set up activities for your child to work on together with other children to achieve a goal. **Let's set the table for lunch.**



Immersing

Provide time and space to engage deeply in individual and group activities. **I like how carefully and slowly you are both painting. We have plenty of time to paint, so take your time.**



Practicing

Encourage your toddler to repeat and practice familiar activities. **One fell off. We'll get better and better if we try it again.**



Reflecting

Reflect aloud with your toddler. Talk about what your toddler did. Ask open-ended questions and encourage revision. **I can see you're frustrated. Natalie didn't know you were talking to her. Try saying her name this time.**



Observing

Notice what your toddler likes to do. Provide materials and activities that encourage her interests. **Here are some more things you can pour and pour into.**

