



Hey! I'm Here!

When your baby comes close to invite interaction, respond with your eyes, voice, and a familiar game. Your warm response encourages them to reach out again.

Helps Your Child Grow



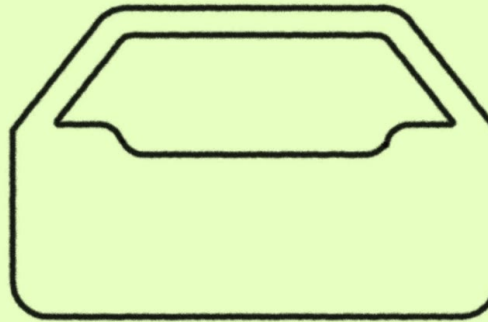
Communicating and Speaking

Responding to your baby's sounds and movements and taking turns in a familiar game encourages them to keep communicating.



Relationships with Adults

Sharing a playful back-and-forth moment helps your baby experience the pleasure of interacting with you.



No materials needed

What You'll Need

No materials needed.



Your Baby Comes to Find You

When your baby comes over to play, respond with eye contact and a few words. If you can, set aside what you are doing. Follow their interest into a simple, familiar game such as peekaboo so they experience your attention and company.

Observations

- Pats you to invite you to play
- Makes a “ba” sound to invite you to play

Tips

- Coming close can be your baby’s way of seeking your attention or beginning an interaction. A prompt response encourages them to keep communicating.
- At twelve months, your baby may use a movement, look, or sound to invite you to play. These are all communication signals.



Where Did My Baby Go?

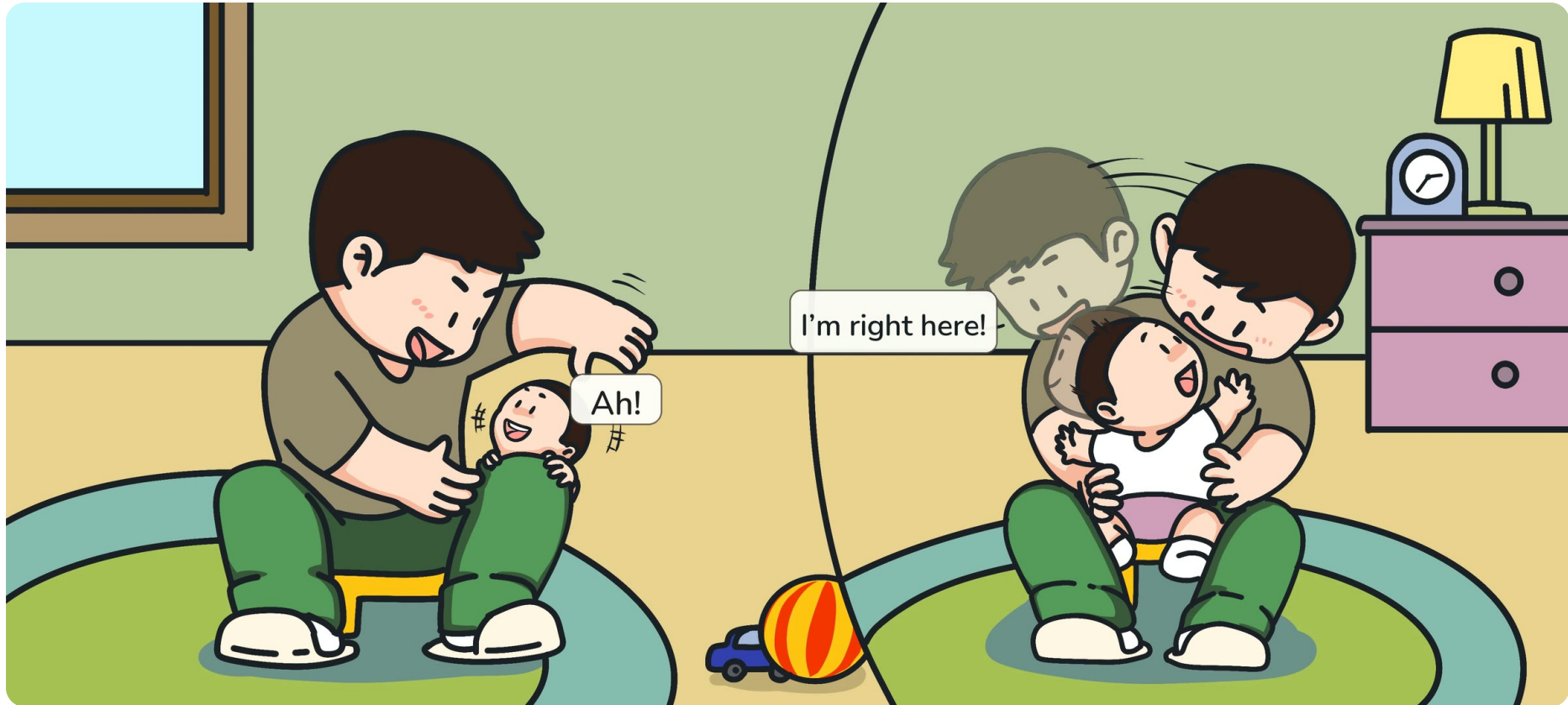
Pretend to return to what you were doing. When your baby pats you a second time, deliberately look in the wrong direction. The little surprise makes the exchange playful and gives your baby a reason to call, pat, or try again.

Observations

- Pats you or makes a sound after hiding so you look again
- Smiles while hiding behind you

Tips

- When you deliberately look the wrong way, pause for a few seconds so your baby has another chance to use a movement or sound to regain your attention.
- Move slowly and use an exaggerated expression so your baby can tell that you are playing, not ignoring them.
- If your baby does not pat or call again, invite another try: "Who was calling me just now?"
- After a brief exchange, slowly turn back to your earlier activity, such as reading, so your baby notices that you have "gone away."



There You Are!

Give your baby time to find you. When they turn toward you or come closer, respond with delighted surprise. If they want another round, switch roles: you look while your baby hides. Repeated hiding, finding, and responding keeps the interaction going.

Observations

- Stays engaged in a game with you, such as peekaboo
- Holds on to you and takes steps to come around in front

Tips

- Waiting gives your baby time to begin the interaction. Respond to any sound they make so they can experience the rhythm of taking turns.
- When you switch roles, hide briefly and reappear so your baby can find you easily and enjoy the back-and-forth game.