



Hello on the Phone

Use a block as a phone and pretend to talk with your baby.

Helps Your Child Grow



Imitation and Symbolic Representation and Play

Using a block or another object as a pretend phone helps your child imitate a familiar action and understand that one object can represent another.



Communicating and Speaking

A pretend phone call gives your child practice taking conversational turns and using words to keep an exchange going.

Steps

- Babies learn by copying familiar actions. When your baby sees you use a phone, they may lift a block to their ear and imitate “Hello?”
- Join the pretend call: “Hello? Is that you?”
- If your baby babbles into the block, put a possible meaning into words and respond: “Oh, it’s you! What are you doing?”
- If they pick up the block but lose the idea, follow their movement and model dialing: “Ring, ring - Mom is calling you.”
- Let your baby repeat a sound, listen, or pretend to dial in their own way.
- Finish by saying “Goodbye” and pretending to hang up. Start another call if your baby wants more.

Tips

- Your baby may pick up a banana or ball and use it as a phone. That is a normal part of pretend play, so avoid correcting how they hold it.
- Once the game is familiar, invite different family members to take pretend calls so your baby can experience a variety of exchanges.

Observations

- Holds a block beside their ear and copies your pretend phone call
- Holds the pretend phone and responds to you with babbling sounds