



I'll Laugh When You Pat Me



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Pat your baby and copy the way they respond, building a playful back-and-forth that invites new ways to communicate.

Helps Your Child Grow



Creativity

Seeing how an adult responds encourages your baby to vary an action and test new ways to keep the interaction going.

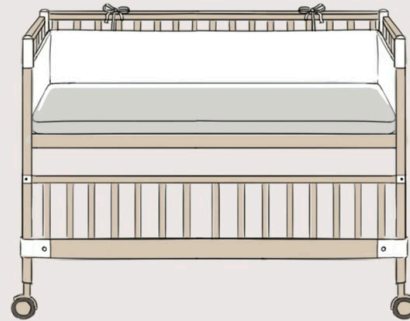


Communicating and Speaking

A prompt response to your baby's action shows that their communication has an effect and encourages another turn in the exchange.



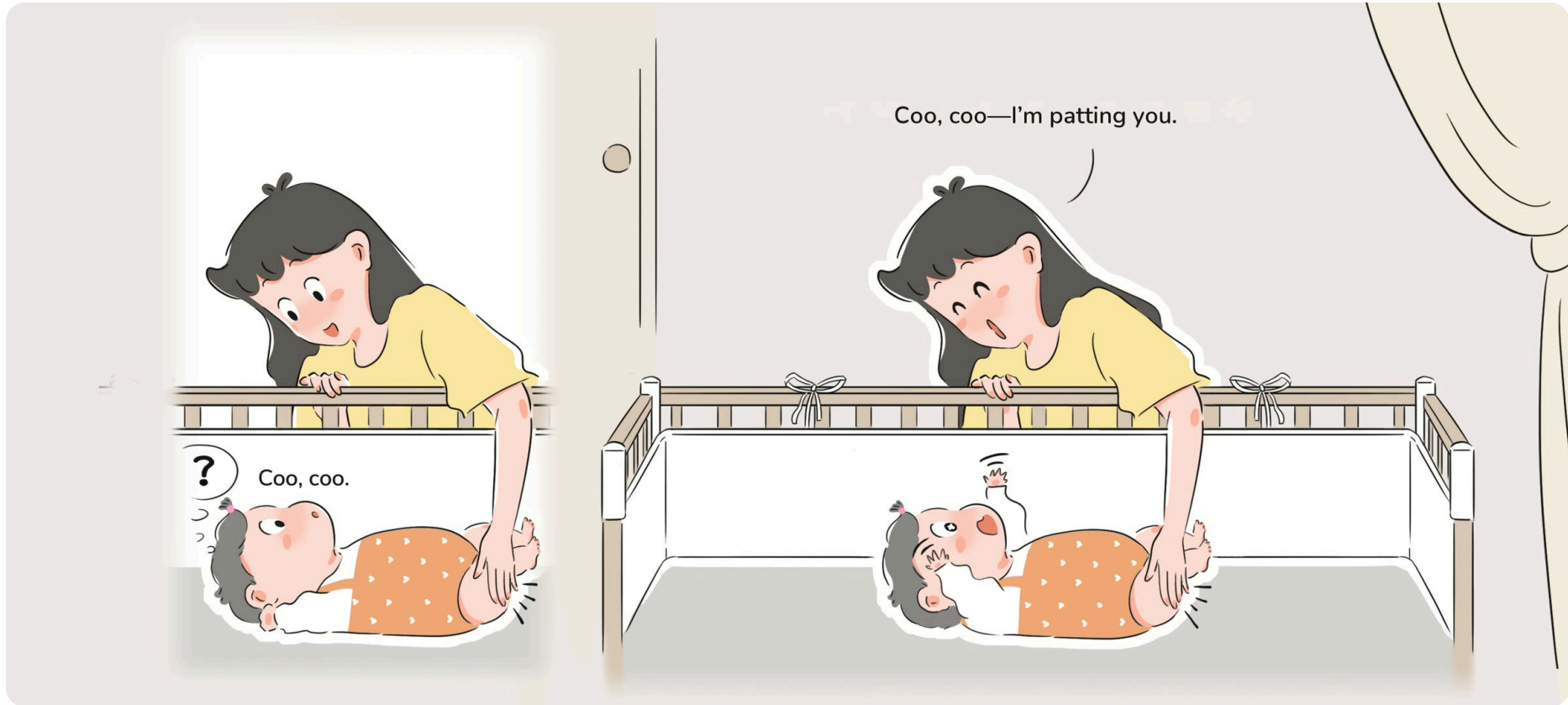
What You'll Need



No materials needed.

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1. Let your baby lie on their back and face you



Are You Patting Me?

Pat your baby's thigh gently as an invitation to interact. When they look at you and coo, echo the same "coo-coo" sound while keeping the soft beat, turning the exchange into a rhythmic conversation.

Observations

- Smiles in response when they hear you imitate them
- Stares at you as if asking you to keep patting

Tips

- Tap gently and keep your baby lying on their back so their head does not jostle.
- Realizing that you are copying them may make your baby respond with even more excitement.
- If your baby does not respond yet, move a little closer and quicken the leg-tapping rhythm to invite their interest.



I Like That Pat

When your response excites your baby and they begin waving their hands, copy the movement with an enthusiastic wave. If their whole body becomes animated, make the patting rhythm a little quicker to match their energy.

Observations

- Waves a hand or foot to invite you to tap faster
- Babbles excitedly in response to you

Tips

- Tap the left leg for a while and then the right. Notice whether your baby responds differently or seems to prefer one side.
- If your baby becomes very excited, gently slow the rhythm to help them settle.
- When your baby discovers that an action gets a response from you, they may repeat it, make the movement bigger, or add more sounds.



Pat Me Again

Once your baby is absorbed in the patting game, stop and wait. Watch for a reach, sound, smile, or another signal inviting you to continue. Then respond with another gentle pat so your baby experiences how their action can restart the exchange.

Observations

- Uses a new gesture or sound to invite you to keep patting
- Giggles or waves their arms and legs during the playful exchange

Tips

- If your baby does not react as soon as you stop, do not worry - they may simply need a moment.
- This short pause gives your baby a chance to initiate the next interaction and express an idea of their own.
- If your baby shows tiredness or fussiness, gradually soften the rhythm, soothe them in a gentle voice, and end the interaction.