



Drop It and Listen

Drop balls into containers made of different materials. Watch and listen together as the same action produces different sounds.

Helps Your Child Grow



Exploration and Discovery

Hearing a sound immediately after dropping a ball helps your baby connect an action with its result and compare what changes with a different container.



Attending and Understanding

Describing the action and sound as they happen helps your baby understand words within a shared game.



What You'll Need

1. Several small balls
2. containers made of different materials, such as a cardboard box, a stainless-steel bowl, and a plastic bowl



Ding-Dong Sounds Are Fun

Show how to drop the balls into different containers and listen to the sounds they make. When your baby looks over with interest, invite them to try and explore the balls and containers in their own way.

Observations

- ☐ Hears your voice and looks at you
- ☐ Grasps a ball with one hand

Tips

- If your baby has not noticed the sound, shake the container gently so the ball rolls inside. You can also move it closer or try a louder container.
- Babies do not always use a toy in the way an adult expects. Your baby may look at it, mouth it, shake it, or simply drop it.



A Sound with Every Throw

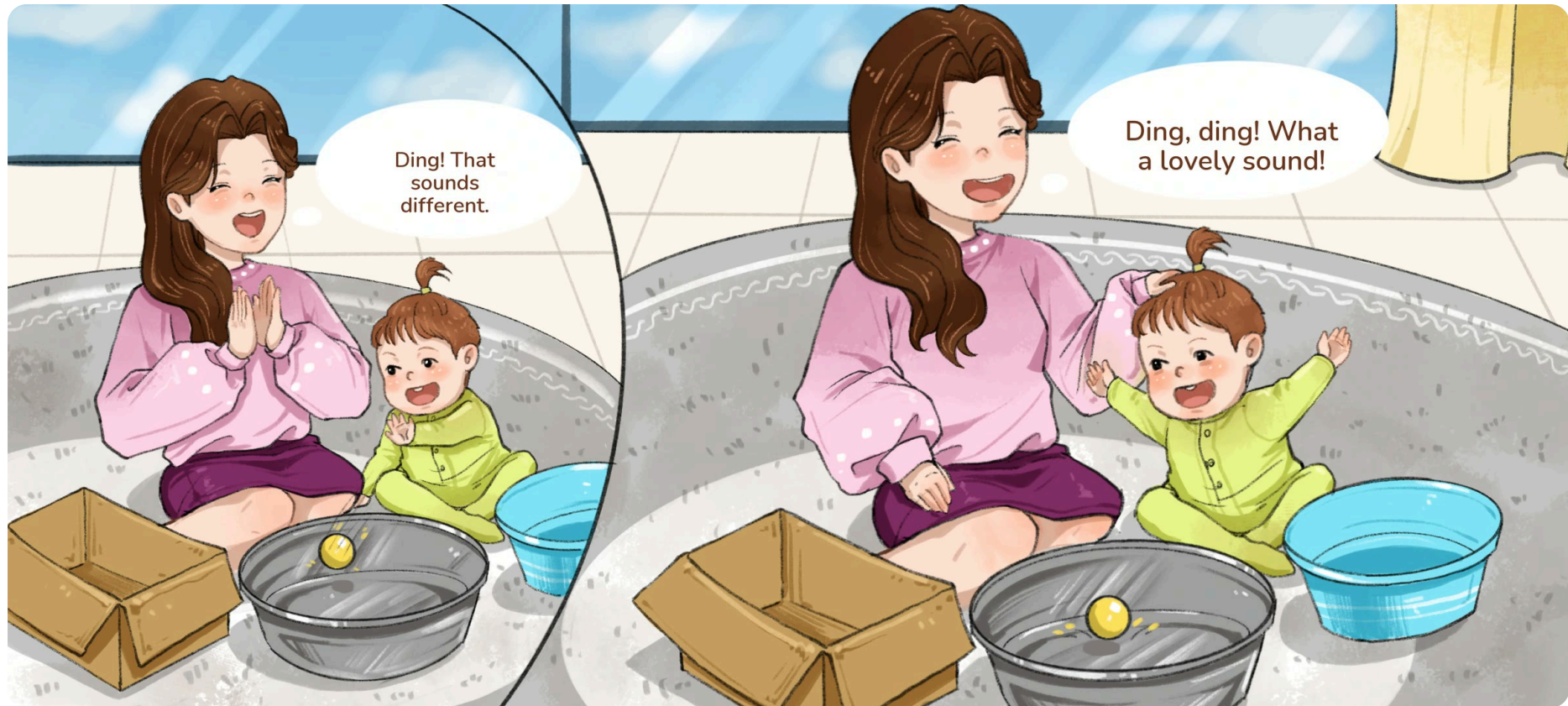
When your baby drops a ball into a container, respond to the sound with surprise. Notice whether they try another container. If they return to the same one, join several repetitions so they can experience the same action producing the sound again.

Observations

- ☐ Drops the ball into a container and listens to the sound
- ☐ Waves their arm and throws the ball

Tips

- If the ball misses, move the container closer or help guide your baby's hand for one turn.
- Introduce a second container by dropping a ball into it and reacting to the new sound.
- Repeating the same drop may be your baby's way of checking whether the same action makes the same sound again.



Each Container Sounds Different

When your baby's interest in one container begins to fade, demonstrate dropping the ball into another and point out that the sound changed. Give them time to compare through repeated play.

Observations

- Drops or throws the ball repeatedly to make impact sounds
- Throws with more energy after hearing your praise

Tips

- Watch your baby's actions and respond with a gentle look or a short phrase while they explore.
- Returning to the same container may show that your baby recognizes or prefers its sound.
- Try a container or ball made of another material, or change the distance of the toss.