



Ask the Mystery Box

Ask, “Hmm?” and discover what is inside the mystery box.

Helps Your Child Grow



Communicating and Speaking

Hearing a rising question tone before each reveal and receiving an immediate answer helps your baby experiment with using “Hmm?” to ask for information.

Steps

- Hide a small toy in an opaque box and shake it so your baby hears that something is inside.
- When they look, shake it again, make a curious face, and ask with rising intonation, “Hmm? What’s inside?”
Open the box together: “A ball!”
- Play several rounds with different toys, using the same rising “Hmm?” before each reveal.
- Once the pattern is familiar, slow down after shaking and wait to see whether your baby tries a rising sound.
- Answer any small “hmm?” or “ah?” as a question: “You want to know what’s inside. This time it’s a car!”

Tips

- Some babies may excitedly copy your rising ‘Hmm?’ after only a few demonstrations. If yours does, open the box and reveal the answer right away.
- In everyday interactions, model changes in intonation. Over time, your child may use a rising tone or a soft questioning sound to show curiosity and anticipation.

Observations

- ☐ Uses a rising tone to make an inquiring sound such as “Hmm?”
- ☐ Tries to open the box after hearing a sound inside