



Little Helper

Use words, gestures, and a simple exchange to ask your baby for the cup.

Helps Your Child Grow



Attending and Understanding

Your gaze, pointing, repeated key words, and demonstration help your baby connect “cup” and “give me” with the object and action in a simple request.

Steps

- Ask your baby for a small helping action: “Mom is thirsty. Give Mom the cup.” If they do not respond yet, use the moment to make the request easier to understand.
- Bring the cup close and explore it together. Let your baby look, touch, or shake it while you repeat, “This is the cup. You’re touching the cup.”
- Place the cup within reach, point to it, and say, “Give Mom the cup.”
- If your baby is unsure, gently guide their hand through passing the cup to you. Then take an exaggerated sip and say, “The water you gave me tastes so good!”
- Repeat the exchange. Once it is familiar, try the same request with another known object: “Give me the ball,” or “Give me the spoon.”

Tips

- At 12 months, your baby often uses your gaze, gesture, and the immediate situation along with your words to understand a request.

Observations

- Hands you the cup after hearing, “Give me the cup”
- Gives you the cup and looks at you happily