



Fill It Up and Pour It Out



Make Room for Every Toy

Turn cleanup into a small problem-solving game. When the toy box looks full, let your baby try different ways to make room for one more toy.

Helps Your Child Grow



Reasoning and Problem-Solving

Encountering a toy that does not fit and trying a different action gives your baby experience changing their approach to solve a simple problem.

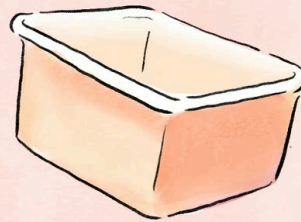


Attending and Understanding

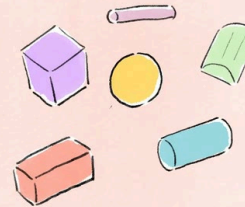
Hearing short directions and descriptions while acting gives your baby practice connecting familiar words with what they do next.



What You'll Need



Toy Storage Box



Toys

What You'll Need

1. Toy storage box

2. several toys



What If It Won't Fit?

After play, invite your baby to help “send the toys home.” Put one toy in the storage box, then offer another for your baby to try. If it does not fit, wait before helping and see what your baby does.

Observations

- Tries to put a toy in the box after hearing, “Put the toy in”
- Pauses and looks after a toy does not fit

Tips

- Keep language short for a 12-month-old baby: “Put it in” or “Try again.” Pair the words with a simple demonstration when useful.
- Your baby may put a toy in, take it out, and put it in again. They are exploring the in-and-out action, not disrupting cleanup.



Let Your Baby Try

Watch and describe your baby's actions. If they push the box over or try something that seems unrelated, pause before correcting it - the action may be a new attempt to solve the problem. Follow what they do and offer one small cue if needed.

Observations

- Tries more than one action to make the toy fit
- Continues trying after the toy does not fit

Tips

- Describe the effort instead of giving general praise: "You're pushing hard to make it fit." This connects the action with what happens.
- If repeated attempts lead to frustration or lost interest, treat that as a request for help and join in.



Show Another Way

If the toy still will not fit, demonstrate one new strategy: shake the box to reveal a gap or move a toy already inside. Let your baby try the final step. With repeated experience, they may use the strategy when another toy gets stuck.

Observations

- Uses a previously tried strategy when another toy does not fit
- Smiles after getting the toy into the box

Tips

- Your baby does not need to learn the new method immediately. Repeating the same problem and action is part of becoming familiar with it.
- After you make a gap, leave the final “put it in” action for your baby so they can experience completing the task.