

Pat-a-Cake

Primary Objectives

8a. Comprehends language

Why It's Important

Most infants are naturally interested in being with others. Engaging your child with simple songs and fingerplays is a fun way to be playful with him. Repeating the activity often will help your child learn songs, new words, and the movements that relate to the song.

Materials

None

What You Do

1. Sit on the floor with your child facing you, either propped securely against a cushion or lying on his back.
2. Say the following rhyme aloud and show your child the hand movements. *Pat-a-cake, pat-a-cake, baker's man. Bake me a cake as fast as you can. Roll it, pat it, mark it with a B, and put it in the oven for baby and me!*
3. Invite your child to play Pat-a-Cake with you. *Let's do it again, and this time I'll use your hands.*
4. Gently hold his hands as you clap, roll, and pat them together.
5. Continue to sing and play for as long as your child remains interested. Be sure to look for cues that tell you he is ready for something different, such as looking away, crying, or attempting to shift positions.
6. You can extend this activity by singing other songs with your child, such as "The Itsy Bitsy Spider"; "Monkeys on the Bed"; "Open, Shut Them"; and "Ten Fingers."