



reach

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Every day, in every way,
babies reach.



**Wiggly baby
on the floor.**



Reaching Tips for Parents and Care Providers

- ♥ Your baby's hands are one of her first tools for discovering the world. Reaching and grasping—what fun milestones! Suddenly your baby touches your face or holds your hand, and a new door to communication opens.
- ★ Hang a mobile above your baby's crib. Watch him wave his arms, kick his legs, and squeal with delight.
- ♥ Give your baby a soft ball to play with (one with different colors and textures to explore). Handling the ball awakens baby's senses—and develops hand-eye coordination. Try rattles for shaking and crinkly fabric toys for squeezing. At tub time, provide floating toys for baby to grab.
- ★ Your hands can be a "baby toy." Demonstrate waving, clapping, and reaching. Play peek-a-boo and pat-a-cake, too.
- ♥ Reaching, grasping, and pointing are important milestones to track. Stay in touch with your pediatrician so you know what to expect from baby at different ages and stages.

- ★ Safety counts: make sure your baby's toys don't have parts that can come off or could fit all the way in her mouth (these are choking hazards). Get down to baby's level to spot what she can reach, and move anything dangerous out of the way.
- ♥ Show baby how pushing buttons makes something happen. Using a music player, push the button to start and stop the sounds. Put your baby's hand on the button and push, so he experiences the thrill of cause and effect.

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