You are your child’s first teacher.

Toddlers (12 to 33 months)

There are five areas essential to your child’s healthy development. Find more supportive learning experiences for your child on the following pages in the Massachusetts Early Learning Guidelines for Infants and Toddlers, downloadable from the Early Education and Care website: [www.mass.gov/eec](http://www.mass.gov/eec).

1 Social-Emotional Development p. 31 p. 101
2 Language and Communication Development (this brochure) p. 47 p. 120
3 Cognitive Development p. 65 p. 144
4 Physical Health and Well-Being p. 80 p. 153
5 Approaches to Learning p. 83 p. 163

You foster the foundation of brain development and learning during the first 3 years of your child’s life.

Infants (birth to 15 months)

Sherri Killins, Ed.D., Commissioner

Prepared by Davis Publications, Worcester, MA

Early Education Consultants:
Susan Etheredge, Ed.D., Professor and Chair of Education and Child Study, Smith College, Northampton, MA
Cathy Weisman Topal, M.A.T. Visual Studies, Lecturer and Studio Art Teacher, Smith College, Northampton, MA

Illustrations by Melissa Iwai

© 2011 Massachusetts Department of Early Education and Care
**Listening**
Listen quietly with your baby to outside and inside sounds.
Shhh. Listen. What do you hear?

**Sensing**
Use words for all the things you can see, smell, hear, taste, and touch. Ooh, you're splashing me, too!

**Imitating**
Imitate your baby's sounds and actions. Play babble games. Ba-ba-ba, Da-da-da

**Playing**
Use everyday objects to invite your child to play. I see you. I see your eye looking at me.

**Reading**
Read to your child. Let's read a book!

**Conversing**
Talk a lot. Talk about what you are doing and what your toddler is doing. Tell me who you played with today.

**Questioning**
Ask your child questions to encourage further thinking, expand play, and make discoveries. How did you make those lines?

**Creating and Problem-solving**
Support your child's curiosity. Ask your child to explain her choices and predict what is going to happen. What do you think will happen if you put the curved block here?

**Engaging**
Give your toddler jobs to do. Help guide him through the steps to complete the task. Do you think the big red tractor would fit here?

**Singing, Rhyming, Chanting, Dancing**
Use your voice and body in different ways to whisper, soothe, excite, and delight. Head, shoulders, knees, and toes...

**Pretending**
Imagine and encourage pretend play. Use new words to describe what your child is doing. Who are you today? Where are you going?