

THE IMPORTANCE OF PLAY

PUPPETS

Using puppets is a great way to interact with your child. At 4 months, babies begin to enjoy social interaction. Placing objects in front of your infant, such as a puppet, will help your infant develop his/her reaching skills. Between 4-9 months, your infant should be showing an interest in colors. Displaying bright objects will help develop visual stimulation. At this stage, your infant will also begin to imitate sounds. This is the beginning of language development.

BLOCKS

At 12 months, most children are mastering the art of walking. Although this is a very important task, mastering the use of their smaller muscles is just as important. At this age, your child should be able to stack objects, such as blocks. Between 12-18 months, babies learn that different toys do different things. Talk to your child, his/her language is still developing and remember, children learn through exploration.



BUBBLES

By 2 years old, children are much more coordinated in their muscle movements and can understand directions. Your child should be speaking approximately 50 words and forming 3 word sentences. Include bubbles in your playtime, this will help your child with the muscles in his/her mouth and may improve their speech.

MAKE A FACE

Your child at 4 years is much more independent. He/she is able to feed and dress all by himself. At this age, children are combining everything they have learned up to this point. Your 4 year old should be speaking in 3-4 word sentences and can understand the concept of counting. The "Make A Face" activity will help your child refine his/her hand-eye coordination. Use this activity as a learning tool by counting the number of eyes, the color of hair and the shape of the nose.