



## SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL BEHAVIOR DEVELOPMENT IN YOUNG CHILDREN

### **At 6 months . . .**

- Your baby responds to your smile and is beginning to laugh when looking at you.
- Your baby is babbling or talking by putting sounds together such as “ma-ma-ma,” “ba-ba-ba,” and “da-da-da.”
- Your baby responds to your soothing and comforting and loves to be touched or held close.
- Your baby responds to your affection and may begin to initiate signs of affection.
- Your baby enjoys watching other babies and children.
- Your baby tries to talk with noises and gurgles.
- Your baby focuses on your voice and turns her head to your voice. She may turn to you when you call her name.
- Your baby may be frightened by loud or unfamiliar noises.
- Your baby wants quiet and soothing sometimes and talking and playing at other times.
- Your baby enjoys simple games like Peekaboo or This Little Piggy.
- A lot of the time, your baby wants you and no one else!

## SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL ACTIVITIES FOR INFANTS 6 MONTHS OLD

Learn your baby's special routines, and try to settle into a consistent routine for eating, sleeping, and diapering. Talk to your baby about his routines. This will help your baby feel secure and content.	Your baby likes to hear new sounds. Bells, whistles, and barking dogs are all new and interesting. Talk to your baby about what she is hearing.	Get down on the floor with your baby and play with him on his level. Look at toys, books, or objects together. Have fun, laugh, and enjoy your special time together.	When your baby cries, respond to her. Whisper in her ear to quiet her. Hold her close and make soft sounds. This will help her know you are always there and that you love her.
Play Peekaboo and Pat-a-Cake with your baby. Be playful, have fun, and laugh with your baby. She will respond with smiles and laughs.	Read to your baby. Snuggle up close, point to pictures, and talk about what you are seeing. Your baby will begin to choose favorite books as he gets a bit older.	Bring your baby to new places to see new things. Go on a walk to a park or in the mall, or just bring her shopping. She will love to see new things while you keep her safe.	When you are working in your home, place your baby in new areas or in new positions. The world looks very different from a new spot!
Let your baby begin to feed himself bits of food and help feed himself with a spoon and a cup. He will begin to enjoy doing things by himself.	Use your baby's name when you dress, feed, and diaper her: "Here is Dusty's finger," "Here is Jen's foot."	Provide new objects for your baby to explore.* Everything is interesting to him. Plastic cups, large wooden spoons, and wet washcloths are all new and interesting.	"Talk" with your baby. When your baby makes a sound, imitate the sound back to her. Go back and forth as long as possible.
Sing songs to your baby and tell her nursery rhymes. Make up songs about your baby using her name. This will make her feel special and loved.	Bath time* is a wonderful time to have fun and be close with your baby. Sponges, plastic cups, and washcloths make simple, inexpensive tub toys.	Enjoy music with your baby. Pick her up, bounce gently, and twirl with her in your arms. Try new and different types of music to dance to.	Go over and visit a friend who has a baby or young child. Stay close to your baby and let him know that these new people are okay. It takes a little time to warm up.

\*Be sure to review safety guidelines with your health care provider at each new age level.