



Play offers your child  
a unique opportunity  
to become a capable,  
confident, and successful  
learner.

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)

**Toddlers** (12 to 33 months) →  
**Infants** (birth to 15 months) →

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



MASSACHUSETTS  
Department of  
Early Education and Care

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

# Learn with me!



Your child  
learns through  
interaction  
and play.

# Play together with your child..



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

# Things You Can Do with Your **Baby**

Activities for Approaching Learning through the Senses

## Seeing

Give your child opportunities to see a variety of indoor and outdoor environments. **Look! A mother duck with her ducklings!**



## Touching

Comfort your baby with a soothing touch. **Doesn't this make your feet feel good? This little piggy...**



## Smelling

Invite your child to stop and smell. **Which one should we add to our oatmeal? I like the cinnamon.**



## Tasting

Offer your baby different flavors and textures. It often takes a few tries to develop new tastes. **I ground up peaches with brown rice for you today.**



## Hearing

Pay attention to sounds of everyday life. **That's the washing machine spinning—that means our clothes are almost clean.**



# Things You Can Do with Your **Toddler**

Activities for Approaching Learning through the Senses

## Extending

Add a new challenge to your toddler's play to help them reinforce skills and help build new ones. **Yesterday you built a house. What else does your house need?**



## Collaborating

Set up activities for your child to work on together with other children to achieve a goal. **Let's set the table for lunch.**



## Immersing

Provide time and space to engage deeply in individual and group activities. **I like how carefully and slowly you are both painting. We have plenty of time to paint, so take your time.**



## Practicing

Encourage your toddler to repeat and practice familiar activities. **One fell off. We'll get better and better if we try it again.**



## Reflecting

Reflect aloud with your toddler. Talk about what your toddler did. Ask open-ended questions and encourage revision. **I can see you're frustrated. Natalie didn't know you were talking to her. Try saying her name this time.**



## Observing

Notice what your toddler likes to do. Provide materials and activities that encourage her interests. **Here are some more things you can pour and pour into.**

