Your child learns through interaction and play.

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

Learn with me!

Play together with your child...

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

1 Social-Emotional Development
2 Language and Communication Development
3 Cognitive Development
4 Physical Health and Well-Being
5 Approaches to Learning (this brochure)

Infants (birth to 15 months)

Toddlers (12 to 33 months)

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

MASSACHUSETTS
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Prepared by Davis Publications, Worcester, MA

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Illustrations by Melissa Iwai
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**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...**

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

**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.**

**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.**

**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?**