



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

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
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5	Approaches to Learning (this brochure)	p. 83	p. 163



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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.**

