

Infant & Toddler Lesson Plan Builders

	6 Weeks +	3 Months +	6 Months +	10 Months +	12 Months +	18 Months +	20 Months +	24 Months +
Social-Emotional	Respond to their basic needs to build trust	Call out the child's name & talk before the child sees you. Can they find you?	Clap your hands/ pat-a-cake or wave saying hi or bye or play "gotcha" game	Study photos of familiar people: Match & point	Comfort distressed children together - verbalize the situation	Play sharing games - use existing resources	Use music and dance - try in pairs or groups	Use old wallets with familiar photos. Leave them out to be discovered.
Language & Early Literacy	Talk & read to baby. Repetition is good for them	Chant or repeat baby's 'words' / sounds.	Ask questions about very familiar things & try matching	Use 'tubes' to talk thru or ask them to point to body parts	Look at animal pictures & imitate animal sounds or play guessing games	Use/make flap books to find surprises or photograph routines & discuss	Baby is saying some words. Repeat in complete sentences.	Make sure there are appropriate books around for the children
Fine Motor	Set objects close by to look at or to try and grasp while laying down.	Supply streamers or ribbons dangling within reach to 'hit' and explore textures.	Place colorful socks, a little bit big on baby. Lye on back to explore/relate hands and feet.	Supply objects with handles for baby to try & hold or supply objects that make interesting sounds when hit	Supply children with object for filling and dumping out or set out puzzles to experiment with	Supply items like paper cups for stacking & aligning or use news-paper for tearing or using as balls.	Fill containers with water & use sponges or eyedroppers to transfer liquid or wrap & unwrap familiar toys	Offer tongs or clothespins for children to clamp or to pick up different objects
Gross Motor	Place babies on their back and encourage them to lift their heads	Hang a light, soft toy from ceiling or tree to puch & watch swing back & forth	Place objects on the floor for babies to grasp, roll & scatter. Don't forget to rotate!	String / tie shoeboxes together (with no lids). See if children put toys in them.	Lie down on the floor the same way as baby & imitate movements & poses	Collect containers so children can use them to haul/carry things around.	Install a bar low enough for them not to be lifted to reach/grasp it & hang alone	Collect stackable items & things that roll for them to play bowling.
Cognitive	Provide interesting & colorful patterns for babies for when they are alert	Encourage babies to imitate sounds & explore. Model/show them how	Collect small plastic bottles with screw tops glued on & place liquid & interesting items inside for them to shake & explore.	Play peek-a-boo with blankets, towels or scarves o make/offer pull toys, have things they can pull or take out of containers	Collect different size tubes for stacking/nesting or for placing or rolling other things through or use bowls or lids to try nesting	Use or make puzzles (try jar lids), or use/make peek-a-boo cards	Explore shapes, like food or try baby basketball	Matching games with pictures or items or sorting games

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Music and Movement	Encourage babies to explore their voices-babble & chant with music, or try humming	Trade funny sounds-imitate some baby has made or use a combination of music or humming & body contact (holding) to	Dance around with baby to lively music - don't forget to ask, sing or chant with movement & encourage imitation or	Play music when baby is standing/sitting independently or while holding something & start dancing or offer objects that make	Provide toys & objects that make interesting noises when shaken or hit together - play music - optional	Use paper towel tubes with children to sing along with music	Encourage children to dance with ribbons or scarves / props	Play 'What made that sound' game - demonstrate instruments or noise makers & match them or pair children to dance together
Sensory	Crunch paper near the child & see if they are attracted to sound & set it out to try & grasp	Use plastic straws to gently blow on baby (never face) - or offer textured fabrics to	Offer squeak toys & demonstrate or create a trail of textured floor materials to explore or	Provide drums or substitutes with different types of drum sticks- demonstrate or go on a 'sound	Introduce them to sticky surfaces like contact paper or tape or try different smells	Use shaving cream to create floating islands or other props in water or bath time for dolly game	Wash objects together or experiment with sand - you may not need to demonstrate	Mystery bag with rotated toys daily as a free-play choice or make mud or bury objects in sand to find
Nature	Show babies different things in nature - included are indoor plants & pictures	Bring in things from outdoors for children to explore, like rocks or branches/bark	Spend time outdoors daily - play games or with toys or singing or humming	Spend time outdoors daily - allow time to explore as well as playing games or with toys or	Spend time outdoors daily - allow time to explore	Spend time outdoors daily - allow time to explore	Spend time outdoors daily - allow time to explore	Explore trees & other natural objects daily or take walks or playing matching games
Creativity	Spend time with babies in different spaces	Spend time with babies in different spaces	Spend time with babies in different spaces - exploring space	Offer writing utensils for scribbling on paper	Encourage stick drawing in dirt or chalk on sidewalk	Finger painting on paper or tabletop or using paint out of a squeeze	Have a variety of drawing utensils & paper - rotate regularly	Face painting with cold cream or introduce glue & paste things together
Dramatic Play	Observe older children with props	Observe older children with props	Observe older children with props	Set out props for children to explore & pretend	Set out props for children to explore & pretend	Set out props for children to explore & pretend	Set out props for children to explore & pretend	Set out props for children to explore & pretend