

# Baby Love

## Tips for Parents and Caregivers

Here are ideas and activities to try this week with your child. Each activity is based on one of the **7 Days • 7 Ways** principles of early literacy development and is designed to engage your child, stimulate his or her literacy skills, and enhance the bonds between you.

- 1. SHARE BOOKS** Does your child have grandparents or other close relatives who live far away? Have distant family members record themselves reading a favorite book of your child's, and play the recording with your child while turning the pages of the book.
- 2. SHARE SOUNDS** Say simple tongue twisters with your child. Repeating the beginning sound in the words is interesting to your child. Keep the tongue twisters simple, using only the first line of each rhyme. For example: She sells seashells by the seashore; Peter Piper picked a peck of pickled peppers; How much wood would a woodchuck chuck if a woodchuck could chuck wood?
- 3. SHARE WORDS** Talk out loud with your child about what you are doing during your everyday activities and routines. Even if she isn't able to speak words yet, listen and respond to her sounds with words, and "model" conversations with her.
- 4. SHARE RHYMES** In addition to nursery rhymes and fingerplays, share poetry with your young child. *Read-Aloud Rhymes for the Very Young*, selected by Jack Prelutsky; *Welcome, Baby! Baby Rhymes for Baby Times*, by Stephanie Calmenson; and *This Little Piggy and Other Rhymes to Sing and Play*, by Jane Yolen, are all good poetry book choices for babies and young toddlers.
- 5. SHARE SONGS** When sharing songs with your child, try to put his name in the song. At night, share lullabies such as "Hush, Little Baby," "Rock-a-Bye Baby," or "All Through the Night," or make up your own lullaby.
- 6. SHARE STORIES** Make up stories about things that you see when riding in the car or when out walking with your child.
- 7. SHARE PLAYTIME** Toy safety is always a concern, even when you are sharing playtime. It is also important to have toys appropriate for your child's age. For toy recommendations, go to: [www.babycenter.com](http://www.babycenter.com) and see "Age-appropriate toys."

# Songs and Rhymes for Baby Love

Here are the songs and rhymes that you and your child enjoyed today. By continuing to sing, chant, and play with them every day, you will help your child make sense of the new information and concepts introduced at storytime.

## Songs

### If You're Happy to Be Here

(sung to the tune of "If You're Happy and You Know It")

If you're happy to be here, clap your hands, *(Clap hands)*  
If you're happy to be here, clap your hands, *(Clap hands)*  
If you're happy to be here, then place a smile there, *(Point to mouth)*  
If you're happy to be here, clap your hands. *(Clap hands)*

If you're ready to have some fun, clap your hands, *(Clap hands)*  
If you're ready to have some fun, clap your hands, *(Clap hands)*  
If you're ready to have some fun, then join in everyone,  
*(Motion hands to join in)*  
If you're ready to have some fun, clap your hands. *(Clap hands)*

### Baby, Baby, Smile at Me

(sung to the tune of "London Bridge Is Falling Down")

Baby, baby, smile at me, *(Bounce child on knees)*  
Smile at me, smile at me,  
Baby, baby, smile at me,  
I love you, my baby. *(Kiss child's cheek)*  
Baby, baby, clap with me, *(Clap hands)*  
Clap with me, clap with me,  
Baby, baby, clap with me,  
I love you, my baby. *(Kiss child's cheek)*

### Baby Love Song

(sung to the tune of "Take Me Out to the Ballgame")

Here are the hands of my baby, *(Gently shake hands)*  
Here are the feet of my child, *(Tap on top of feet)*  
And here are two legs and two tiny knees. *(Tap legs and knees)*  
I can't help it, I'll give them a squeeze! *(Squeeze knees)*  
Baby's got two arms just for hugging, *(Pat arms)*  
And that's just what I will do, *(Hug child)*  
For it's one, two, three times I'll say, *(Hug child and sway)*  
Baby, I love you!

### Say, Say, Oh Baby

(sung to the tune of "Say, Say, Oh Playmate")

Say, say, oh baby, come here and clap with me, *(Clap)*  
And bring your happy smile, bounce on my lap or knee, *(Bounce)*  
Shake, shake your hands now, shake, shake your bootie, too.  
*(Shake hands, then shake hips)*  
Shake, shake your tootsies ten. *(Shake feet)*  
Let's do it all again!

#### Additional Verse

...Shake, shake your tootsies ten, and now we'll say "the end!"

### The More We Get Together

The more we get together, *(Sway in time to music)*  
Together, together,

The more we get together,  
The happier we'll be.  
For your friends are my friends, *(Point to child, then to self)*  
And my friends are your friends, *(Point to self, then to child)*  
The more we get together, the happier we'll be.

#### Additional Verse

The more we play together...

## Rhymes

### Dance, Little Baby

Dance, little baby, dance up high, *(Lift child high overhead)*  
Never mind, baby, Mama's nearby, *(Lower child to lap)*  
High and low, fast and slow, *(Lift up fast and down slow)*  
There, little baby, down you go! *(Up and down)*  
Up to the ceiling, down to the ground, *(Up and down)*  
Backwards and forwards, *(Lean forward and back)*  
Round and round, *(Move child's hands or feet in circle)*  
Dance, little baby, and Mama shall sing,  
*(Sway forward and back, or side to side)*  
With a merry little bell that ding-a-ding dings.  
*(Bounce child gently in lap)*

### Pat-a-Cake

Pat-a-cake, pat-a-cake, baker's man, *(Clap child's hands)*  
Bake me a cake as fast as you can.  
Roll it, *(Roll child's hands)*  
And pat it, *(Pat hands twice)*  
And mark it with a "B," *(Make a "B" on child's chest)*  
And put it in the oven *(Pat child's tummy)*  
For baby and me.

### What Babies Like to Do

There are many things,  
Babies like to do,  
Are these things,  
You can do, too?  
These little babies  
Touch their toes, *(Touch toes)*  
These little babies  
Wiggle their nose. *(Wiggle nose with finger)*  
These little babies smile, *(Point to mouth)*  
These little babies cry, *(Pretend to cry)*  
These babies peekaboo,  
And hide their eyes! *(Hide eyes behind hands)*  
There's one more thing  
These babies can do,  
They wave good-bye, *(Wave good-bye)*  
Can you wave, too?