

Peekaboo!

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** Make a special peekaboo book for your baby using family photos, construction paper, and tape. Attach family photos to cardstock or heavy paper. Cover the faces with colorful shapes cut from construction paper, tape the top edge of the paper, and play peekaboo with all of your baby's favorite people!
- 2. SHARE SOUNDS** All babies, no matter what language is spoken in the home, sound alike until they are about six months old. Then they start repeating sounds they hear around them. When you play peekaboo, raise and lower your voice, whisper or use funny voices to amuse your baby, and see if she mimics you!
- 3. SHARE WORDS** With any flap or peekaboo book, share more words with your baby than only those printed on the page. If there is an illustration of a bird, what color is it? How large is it? Is it flying? Share these exciting words so that your baby can learn to get the most enjoyment out of reading.
- 4. SHARE RHYMES** Make up silly rhymes while playing peekaboo, especially using the word that is most important to your baby: his own name! Rhymes do not need to make sense to babies, who simply enjoy the sounds of the words. "Can't see you, what can I do? ... There you are, my peekaboo star!"
- 5. SHARE SONGS** When singing the song "Singing Peekaboo" from today's storytime, add other parts of the body to introduce your baby to unfamiliar words, such as chin, neck, ears, and elbows.
- 6. SHARE STORIES** After making the family peekaboo book described above, share short stories about the family members after lifting the flap.
- 7. SHARE PLAYTIME** Find ways to add peekaboo to playtime or daily routines. For example, cover your baby's toys with a blanket for an easy game of peekaboo, and hide a rubber ducky or other bath toy under bubbles or a washcloth and watch it pop up!

Songs and Rhymes for Peekaboo!

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)*

Where Is Baby?

(sung to the tune of "Jingle Bells")

Where is baby? Where is baby? *(Cover your eyes with hands)*
Where can baby be?
Peekaboo! I see you! *(Take hands away and "find" child)*
Baby, you I see!
Where is baby? Where is baby? *(Cover your eyes with hands)*
Where, oh, where are you?
Peekaboo! I see you! *(Take hands away and "find" child)*
Playing peekaboo!

Singing Peekaboo

(sung to the tune of "The Farmer in the Dell")

Can you hide your eyes? *(Cover your eyes with hands)*
Can you hide your eyes?
Yes you can, you surely can, *(Remove hands)*
You can hide your eyes. *(Cover your eyes with hands again)*

Additional Verses

Can you hide your nose? ...
Can you hide your knees? ...
Can you hide your feet? ...

I Look in the Mirror

(sung to the tune of "Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star")

I look in the mirror and what do I see? *(Hold palms up like a mirror)*
I see a funny face looking at me.
A scrunched-up nose, *(Touch nose)*
And big, bright eyes, *(Open eyes wide and point to them)*
Two fuzzy eyebrows—what a surprise! *(Touch eyebrows)*
I look in the mirror and what do I do? *(Hold palms like a mirror)*
I giggle and laugh at the sight of you. *(Tickle child and giggle!)*

The More We Get Together

The more we get together, *(Sway from side to side 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

Open Them, Shut Them

Open them, shut them, *(Open and close hands)*
Open them, shut them,
Give them both a clap, clap, clap! *(Clap hands)*
Open them, shut them, *(Open and close hands)*
Open them, shut them,
Put them in your lap, lap, lap. *(Place hands in lap)*

Creep them, creep them, *(Creep hands up arms)*
Slowly creep them,
Right up to your chinny chin chin.
Circle around your little mouth, *(Circle hand around mouth)*
But do not let them in, in, in! *(Lightly tickle mouth)*

Open them, shut them, *(Open and close hands)*
Open them, shut them,
Give them both a clap, clap, clap! *(Clap hands)*
Open them, shut them, *(Open and close hands)*
Open them, shut them,
Put them in your lap, lap, lap. *(Place hands in lap)*

Jack in the Box

Jack in the box, sits so still, *(Hug child)*
Won't you come out? Yes, I will!
(Lift child into the air on "Yes, I will")
(Repeat)

Where Are Baby's Hands?

Clap your hands, one, two, three, *(Clap hands three times)*
Play a clapping game with me.
Now your hands have gone away, *(Hide hands behind back)*
Find your hands so we can play! *(Bring hands from behind back)*
(Repeat)