

Play is the key way children learn about themselves, others and the world they live in. It is essential to their learning, development, health, and physical, mental and social well-being – and it's FUN! Play provides the building blocks to be ready for school.



Doll Play

Including dolls in play with your baby can help build early communication skills. This includes taking turns, following your baby's lead, copying their actions with the doll and keeping it simple.

Did you know?

Babies are attracted to faces so dolls can be a perfect comfort object.

Add language

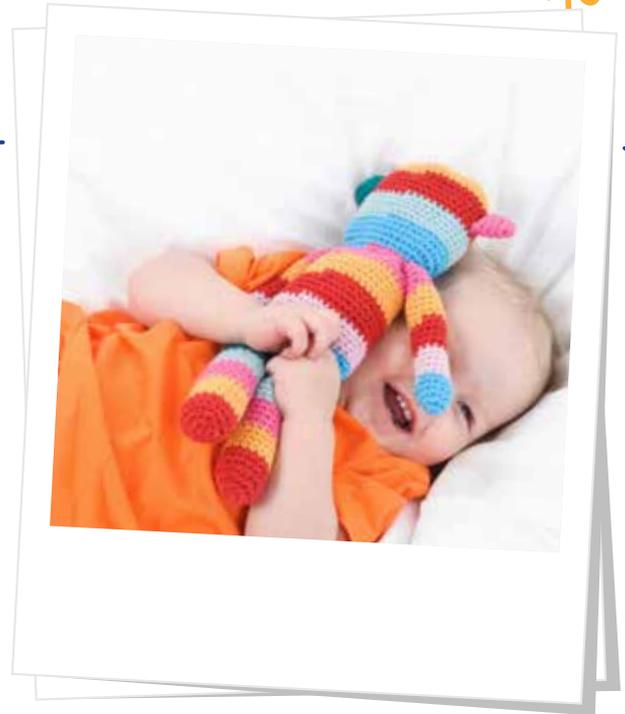
Provide the words that go with what your baby is focused on or doing with the doll e.g. "cuddle dolly", "dolly soft", "Dolly's eyes".

Help to develop your baby's language by using the doll to play peek-a-boo, repeating the same word or phrase as you play e.g. "Where's dolly?" or "Boo".

Ask occasional questions that can be answered by baby even before they can use words i.e. simple yes/no questions they can shake or nod their head to e.g. "Is dolly hungry?" or simple "where" questions that they can use pointing or gesture to answer e.g. "Where's dolly's nose?".

Other development

Soft dolls provide your baby with practice at grasping objects with their hands. Smaller soft dolls are more manageable for babies than large, heavy dolls.



Variations

Given that babies can become very attached to their soft doll or animal toy it can be helpful if washable toys are chosen to give to your baby.

Safety

Check that the doll has no small parts that can become loose and no cords that can be choking hazards.

- Playgroup WA has a treasure trove of play activities for babies, toddlers and 3-5 year olds, for home and playgroup. These play activities cover a balanced diet of play across sensory, movement, language and thinking skill areas.

You can find them at www.playgroupwa.com.au/playideas or visit www.facebook.com/playgroupwa

