

Baby Doll

What should be included:

- Baby doll (weighted – so the child can “feel” when they are holding the doll)
- Baby bottle & Juice cup
- Bowl of food, fork and spoon
- Clothes (bib, 2 outfits)
- Blanket
- Paper
- Crayons
- Activity Dice
- Book – Pugtato Babysits the Snouts

Play Plan:

It is your child’s turn to bring home the baby doll. While taking care of the baby, your child will be practicing his/her reading readiness, writing and fine motor skills. Please help your child get the most from this activity by assisting him/her when needed and encouraging your child to attempt things on his/her own once he/she knows how to do them (especially things such as pulling the doll’s arms and legs into the clothing, as well as, zipping and fastening clothes). Below are just a few suggestions of things your child can do to help take care of the baby doll.

The baby likes to:

- Drink a bottle or juice
- Be rocked
- Be dressed
- Go places you go
- Play what you play
- Have books read to her

Activities:

1. Allow your child to have some time to just play with the baby – if your child is having trouble thinking of things to do, you can suggest some of the things the baby likes to do from the list from above
2. After your child has had some time to just play with the baby, tell him/her that you are going to play a game with the baby. At this time, you are going to be giving your child directions that you want him/her to follow. Start by giving only **one** thing to do at a time, then as your child gets used to listening and performing the task you asked, start adding more details and multiple step directions.

***It is FUN for the child but he/she is developing a very necessary skill to be successful in school.**

- Below are some suggested directions:
 - You make a “crying” sound and then tell your child that your baby is crying please give the baby a bottle of milk (watch child to see if he/she follows the direction correctly) *If your child isn’t able to do what you asked or performs the task incorrectly, just repeat the instructions and see if he/she can then perm the task correctly.
 - You say the baby is getting tired, please wrap the baby in the blanket and rock it gently
 - You say the baby is hungry, please give the baby a bite of carrots, then peas and then apple
 - Continue to add instructions to follow until your child can easily follow 3 step directions

***Very helpful in preparing your child to listen and follow directions in school, as well as, hearing the sound sequences when reading words**

3. Let the baby doll join the family in some of the family outings, such as, going to visit relatives/friends, going to the store, etc.

* When your child and the baby doll have had several fun encounters, please help your child think of some of the things he/she has done with the baby doll:

- Help your child draw a picture of his/her favorite thing
- Have your child tell you about his/ her picture and you write a sentence or label to record something he/she said about the picture

***Very helpful in helping your child understand the words they read tell us something**

Book Activity:

Read ***Pugtato Babysits the Snouts*** to your child and the baby

- After you have read the book together:
 - Ask your child if he/she can tell you something that happened in the book
 - Did you do any of the same things with the babydoll that Pugtato did with the snouts?

*To you child, these activities are just FUN! While in fact they are fun - he/she is developing necessary skills to be successful in school.

Big Body Movement:

- **Hug and Roll** – this is a fun activity to do with your child and then your child can do the same activity with the baby doll. To begin you lay down on the floor on your back and

have your child lay on his/her stomach on your stomach. You wrap your arms tightly around your child (making sure to securely hold child's head to your chest) and your child hugs you as tight as he/she can and then you begin to roll from side to side (can roll over in a complete log roll if your child enjoys this movement). After you and your child play this a few times let your child get his/her baby doll and do the same motion (you may need to help your child get in the correct position and begin the rolling motion.

- **Clap, Slap or Stomp the ABC's** - this is a good time to practice **SAYING** the ABC's and adding motion helps several things. First start with clapping your hands each time a letter is said (one clap for each letter – this may be hard at first and you may want to just practice by clapping and saying only A, B, C). Next you can try stomping one foot as you say each letter (one stomp for each letter said) and the next time you say the letters stomp the other foot, when this becomes easy try alternating feet for each letter said (A-stomp right foot, B-stomp left foot and continue that for each letter). Another thing to try is raising up each knee and slapping it as each letter is said (A-right knee up and slap it with right hand, B-left knee up and slap it with left hand and continue alternating until you have said each letter). If you are ready for a challenge, try saying "A" raising up the right knee but reach across the body and slap it with the left hand, "B" raising up the left knee and reach across the body and slap it with the right hand and continue this pattern as each letter is said (reaching across "midline" of one's body helps in brain development, but is also FUN 😊)
- **Activity Dice** – roll the dice and identify the number and the movement on which each landed. Have your child do that movement for the number of times shown. To begin you can help your child identify the number and movement, as well as, count while performing the movement. After you feel your child can identify the numbers and movement as well as count, let your child begin to do take the lead.

These are just a few suggestions. A child learns best through play and hands on experiences, feel free to be CREATIVE and have FUN 😊 !