

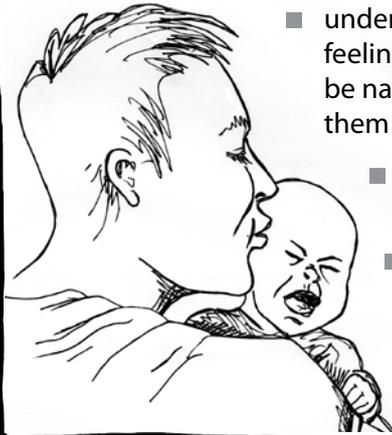
Dads make a difference

0-6 months

From the beginning, your baby is learning by watching you. Your baby's brain is growing quickly and there are lots of ways you can help them to discover their world.

- make your baby feel safe and comfortable by looking at them, talking to them and giving them lots of gentle cuddles.
- help your baby's thinking skills by giving them lots of different things to look at, listen to and touch.
- watch for tired signs – look out for signs like crying, jerky movements and when baby is not looking at you. It might be time for a sleep!

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- understand your baby will cry for lots of reasons – feeling hungry, tired or uncomfortable. They are not crying to annoy you or be naughty. Help them feel safe and cared for by holding and comforting them when they cry.
- help them feel safe and protect their brain by supporting their head and neck when you hold them.
- watch out for them as they start to roll and move about – never leave your baby on the bed or couch by themselves.

Remember to put your baby on their back to sleep

Playing together

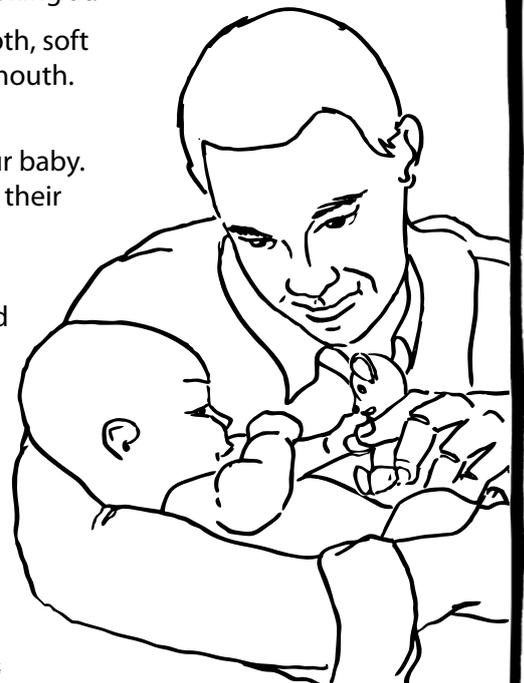
0-6 months

Your new baby will enjoy gentle play – try soft music, soft toys, talking to them and lots of hugs. Try these ideas:

- give your baby lots of different things to look at – flowers, coloured shapes, toys and mobiles. Talk with them about what they are looking at.
- give your baby lots of different safe objects to feel – rough, smooth, soft and hard, but only things that are safe for them to have in their mouth. Let your baby hold on to a soft toy or rattle.
- listen to gentle music, wind chimes and musical toys. Sing to your baby. Remember that loud music can frighten babies and can damage their hearing.
- spend time together talking and playing on the floor. Help your baby get ready for sitting and crawling by helping them to spend a few minutes on their tummy each day.

Spend time with your baby – talk, sing, laugh and play. Dad time is important!

- look at a mirror together – talking about the different parts of their face and have fun making lots of different funny faces.



Reading together

0-6 months

Reading together is important, even for very new babies. Here are some tips to help you enjoy reading with your baby:

- get comfortable in your favourite chair or sit on the floor with baby in your lap.
- help baby to see the books clearly by holding the book about 20 cm away from them.
- choose books with thick pages and bright bold pictures and patterns. Black and white pictures and patterns are great for new babies.
- look at the book and your baby when you read – point to the pictures and talk about the things your baby is looking at. Don't worry about reading all the words.
 - change your voice to make the story interesting – loud, soft, happy, funny, sad.
 - your baby may only want to look at a book for a few minutes – don't worry their interest and attention will increase over time.

DADS MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Remember you don't always need to read a book! Photo albums, magazines and even the mail can be fun to look and talk about too.



Talking together

0-6 months

Talking to your baby helps them feel secure and will develop their ability to use words. Here are some ways to get talking:

- notice how they respond to your voice and touch. You will soon notice your baby is looking at you more carefully and can look at you for longer periods.
- make funny faces, play peekaboo games and smile! Smile as much as you can and watch for when your baby is able to smile back at you.
- talk gently about what you are doing – 'it's time for your bath' and 'we need to put your socks on so that we can go outside'.
- tell them a story – it's fine to make the story up or talk about what you are doing.
 - copy the sounds your baby makes and have fun sharing new sounds – da da da and ma ma ma.
 - sing songs and nursery rhymes to your baby – in the car, in the bath and at bedtime. Singing is a great way to connect with your baby.



DADS MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Twinkle Twinkle Little Star

Twinkle Twinkle Little Star
How I wonder what you are
Up above the world so high
Like a Diamond in the Sky
Twinkle Twinkle Little Star
How I wonder what you are