MONTHS 11-13

LET'S EXPLORE



WOAH!

There's so much going on with your baby's development in the months 11-13!

In Months 11 -13 Your Baby Might

- Be getting better at using his hands and fingers and will probably be feeding himself with his fingers at most meals
- Pull herself up to stand by holding onto furniture, or she might even stand well by herself
- Take her first steps or could even be walking by herself
- Choose to crawl sometimes because walking is tiring!

Help you more when he's getting dressed without being prompted

 Start to link words with their meanings – for example, if you say 'ball' or 'teddy' he might look around for these things or go find and bring to you



There Are A Few Simple Things You Can Do To Help Your Baby's Development At This Age:

Give your child lots of hugs, cuddles and kisses: empathy and attention are good for your child's emotional development. Your child is learning how his emotions work and needs positive modelling more than ever.

Encourage moving: this helps your child build muscle strength, which is important for more complex movements like walking and running. Making your home safe means your child can move about freely without getting hurt. Encourage everyday skills like putting on

and taking off a hat. These skills involve both small and big muscle movements, as well as your child's ability to think about what he's doing.

Practical Life: Practical life activities are meaningful and purpose exercises – practicing a portion of a task adults often do in everyday life. Sweeping, drying dishes, unstacking the dishwasher – these are often much more fun for your child than playing with toys. Your little one wants to help you do everything. And letting him builds confidence and independence.

Talk with your toddler: naming and talking about everyday things – body parts, toys and household items like spoons or chairs – develops your child's language skills. At this stage, your child will pick up nuances and descriptions: a 'chair' can be a 'big chair', 'red chair' or even a 'big red chair'.

Read with your toddler: help meet your child's interest in language by reading together, telling stories, singing songs and reciting nursery rhymes





Trust in Nature

Babies often need to be introduced to things multiple times before they will engage. If your baby doesn't seem interested in something, try again later.

A gentle reminder that nature unfolds exactly as it's meant to. Your baby is no different. Every development path is unique and no two babies are the same.

It's perfectly okay that your baby's development may not align perfectly with our suggested ages, stages and toys of interest. Every baby is perfectly unique. With different interests and different capabilities.

You are both gifted something truly precious.
The present.





To maximize your child's interest in this Playkit we recommend introducing one toy every 1-2 weeks

This enables your little one to experience the excitement and challenge of something new with ample time for repetition.

Repetition fosters focus and concentration.

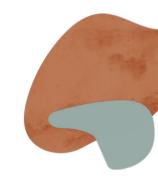
Step 1: In Montessori it's recommended to put out 6-8 toys at once. This supports your little ones sense of order and allows them to focus on their work/play as they build new skills.

Step 2: Leave toys out for a week or two before rotating because children will thrive when given the opportunity for repetition with their toys.



INTRODUCING

Toys designed to nurture babies developing brain







THE TRACKER

Visually tracking the balls from left to right prepares your baby for future success in reading. Winning!



FIRST WORDS BOOKS

Everyday objects that your baby is getting to know – like animals, food and clothes, including some that might become first words





PUSH BALLS

Explore motion and direction whilst strengthening your child's fingers and palm



FIRST PUZZLE SET

Start developing fine motor and problem solving skills with this first puzzle set



FIRST CONCEPT BOOKS

Introduce your baby to concepts like counting and shapes, in a way that helps them make sense of their world



RAINBOW STACKER

Learn how things fit together with these colourful stacking rings, whilst building precision and motor skills



FLIP TOP BOX

Build hand strength, hand eye coordination and problem solving skills with this surprising flip top box



PUZZLE SET

Help your baby practice shape recognition while developing fine motor and problem solving skills A reminder to supervise your baby while playing with the materials and not to leave your baby unattended.



Learning to focus and track movement

The Tracker helps prepare your child for future success in reading

Why:

Children learn about the world around them through the senses. When the senses are engaged, neural pathways in the brain are being created. These neural pathways are what will help your baby in learning throughout their life. Generally speaking, the more senses you can include in play, the better

As children manipulate objects and explore through their senses, they are developing key strategies to problem solving. Guessing, experimenting, testing assumptions, and drawing conclusions are all foundations for success in STEM.

The Tracker ticks all these boxes, while simultaneously working your little one's eyes. Visually tracking the balls moving from left to right prepares your child for future success in reading. The tracker also entices repetition, working gross motor skills as your little one squats and stands

Toddlers often enjoy coming back to the Tracker, keep in your toy rotation until age 2.

Ideas For Play:

- Show your child how the Tracker works
- Narrate your child's actions: 'You pushed down the blue ball!
- Ask questions: 'Which coloured ball will you push down first?'
- 'I can see you have the green ball, can you place it in my hand?'
- Use tone of voice in encouragement: 'You did it!'



Making sense of the world and abstract concepts

The First Words Books help your child make sense of abstract concepts and build vocabulary

Why:

Babies are eager to learn about the world around them and benefit from books that feature realistic, concrete images of things they see in everyday life.

Our mini books are filled with real life images to help your little one make sense of the world

If your child hears a ton of talk in her first three years, she'll have a larger vocabulary, increased listening skills and strong communication skills. Reading also builds social, communication and listening skills.

It teaches your child one of the keys to success in personal and professional relationships: non-verbal communication and body language.

Ideas for play:

- Your job as Chief Storyteller is to lead a conversation about what you see, ideally with sound effects!
- It is important to read/ speak slowly so your baby can absorb language
- Play with tone of voice, facial expressions and body cues
- When you come to the end, choose a phrase like 'We're

finished' or 'The End' and repeat it at the end of every book. It quickly becomes a signal that storytime is done. And if they're interested, you can read again

- Keep background noise to a minimal so baby can develop attention and focus
- Introduce STEM skills by using describing sentences to give information. For example: 'The rock is heavy because it is so big'





Practicing concentration and precision



Why:

Independence starts with hand control.

By providing opportunities to use two hands to work together, you are aiding in the growth of independence.

'What the hand does the mind remembers' - Maria Montessori

Here, the colourful rainbow rings are intentionally placed on the dowel, helping your baby develop concentration and coordination. Your baby is practicing grasping and releasing on purpose as he practices putting the ring on the stacking toy. It takes precision to pick up and successfully place the rings on the dowel, and your little one will enjoy the challenge and experimentation.

Toddlers still find joy from the stacker. Keep in your toy rotation until around age 2.

Ideas for Play

If your child doesn't explore the material on his own, you can pick up a ring then place it on the dowel – this models how it works and may pique his interest

- Build vocabulary and create colour recognition using the rings as stimulus: 'you picked up the purple ring, I have the green ring'
- Sing about the colours of the rainbow
- Narrate your child's actions and ask questions: 'Where does the ring go?'
- Use tone of voice as encouragement 'You did it!'



Strengthening fine motor skills

The Push Balls strengthens fine motor skills and builds on the understanding of object permanence

Why:

Your child is working on fine motor strength when she pushes the balls through the top. Babies love pushing the coloured balls and watching them disappear and (surprise!) pop out down below. The balls disappear, then reappear, building on the concept of object permanence.

This toy also helps her understand cause and effect as she practices posting. It's fun to watch as your baby explores which other toys fit in the holes The Balls Push explores motion and direction and develops hand-eye coordination.

Toddlers still enjoy coming back to this, keep it in your toy rotation until around age 2.

Ideas For Play:

- Show your baby how the If your child doesn't explore the material on her own, you can push down a ballmodelling how it works and piquing her interest
- Narrate and ask questions: 'Which coloured ball will you push down first?'

- 'I can see you have the green ball, can you place it in my hand?'
- 'Does your soft ball fit inside the hole?'
- 'You pushed down the blue ball!'
- Use tone of voice as encouragement: 'You did it!'



Working on concentration and problem solving

The Progressive Puzzles work concentration and problem solving skills

Why:

Learning how to use both sides of his body at the same time is a skill that's important for things like getting dressed. Your child needs lots and lots of practice using both hands at once to build the speed of communication between her brain's hemispheres.

This progression of simple puzzles provides the perfect level of challenge for your child to work on concentration and hand-eye coordination.

Starting with a simple two dimensional object (a flat circle) helps your little one build awareness of how shapes fit together. He's also working on shape recognition at the same time.

Working with the puzzles helps your baby develop fine motor and problem solving skills—his hands and eyes work together when he removes or fits the puzzle piece.

We recommend kicking off with the circular puzzle sets. Circles are the easiest shape to match because they have no corners!

Once your child has mastered shape recognition, introduce more of a challenge with complex puzzles of multiple shapes.





Ideas For Play:

- Long before your child learns how to put the puzzle piece in, he can lift it out
- Have your baby practice grasping the knob and pulling the piece out... show him how it fits back in
- Let him explore the two
 parts of the puzzle by
 mouthing them and
 banging them together—
 banging objects together is
 another way of using both
 sides of the body at once

- Personalize the puzzle: cut out photos of family, friends or pets. Adhere pictures for a surprise inside
- As she gains dexterity and the ability to discriminate between shapes, introduce multiple puzzles at once so he can discover which shapes fit into which holes







Deepening my understanding of object permanence



The Flip Top Box deepens an understanding of object permanence

Why:

Your toddler is deepening his understanding of object permanence.

Up until recently if something couldn't be seen your little one thought it was gone forever. The Flip Top Box encourages your child to explore this concept further while working his memory.

Here the ball is pushed through the hole and disappears. He'll need to figure out how to move the lid to find the ball inside. And because the ball can't be seen it's always a surprise to find it in there! Intentionally posting and releasing the ball is also a fun lesson in cause and effect. Posting sends information to the brain and develops hand, wrist and finger control.

Ideas For Play:

- Let the ball drop into the hole, ask your child: 'Where did it go?'
- Let him watch you flip the lid to reveal the ball hidden inside
- Your toddler be so proud of himself when he can do this on his own!

 Hide surprises inside the box for your baby to discover





Developing reverence for nature

Taking toddler nature walks fosters reverence for the earth

Why:

Spending time outside in nature helps foster reverence for the earth.

At the same time, by encouraging your child to play, explore and investigate, you're helping them become active participants in their own learning.

How:

 Walk without any set destination or time-frame! Follow their pace and take interest in what they take interest in Go for a nature walk and list everything you can see to your child

- Collect treasures on the walk and take them home to show Mama or Daddy
- Allow your child to touch and feel as much as he needs. It may become a daily ritual you both cherishyour baby!



Help build executive functioning and decision making skills

Decision making is a skill that needs to be practiced. You can help your baby build executive functioning and become comfortable making decisions.

How? By giving her two choices.

Only offer two choices that are realistic and choices you are willing to give.

Fun fact: Any more than two choices will overwhelm a child.

"Would you like to wear this or this?"

From birth until around age 3, children are unconsciously absorbing everything in their environment. They gather everything from their environment just simply by being in it. They can teach themselves how to move by watching, they can teach themselves how to talk by listening.

Everything your baby sees and experiences is becoming part of him.

Human Beings are amazing!

The child has a different relation to his environment from ours...the child absorbs it. The things he sees are not just remembered; they form part of his soul.

- Dr. Maria Montessori

While young children need to be exposed to different textures, sights and sounds, the most essential ingredient for brain development is a secure attachment to oling caregivers and interactions with them.

Babies don't need much: A simple shelf with a handful of materials your babe can engage with. Their space within your space.

- Monti&Me

FUN FACT:

If can be easy to create an environment that fosters independence, confidence and learning for your babe. Children love to do things on their own when given the opportunity.

Purposeful Play with close-ended toys and tools build skills like executive functioning, perseverance, concentration and focus. Critical skills for success as an adult.

Every interaction we have with our children shapes the people they are and the ones they will become. That's a powerful truth. But it comes with a parallel truth: our imperfections, our failures, our mistakes and our flaws make both us and our children human, and most importantly, it is how we handle those human moments that teach our children that being perfectly imperfect humans is perfectly okay.

- L.R KNOST, HOLISTIC PARENTING MAGAZINE

FUN FACT:

Did you know that the most important interactions you have with a child can happen through play? By engaging in playful serve and return with a child, you can literally help build stronger connections in the brain. Strong neural connections are the foundation for all of a child's future learning, behavior, and health.

There are so many "rules" these days with kids and everyone has an opinion. But when you focus on the data, instead of the drama, making informed choices becomes easy.

- Monti&Me

The Montessori Method strengthens certain brain functions that help expand cognitive development. I've nicknamed it "the original system of learning based on the brain."

 Steve Hughes, neuropsychologist, pediatrician, and Montessori father

Parenting isn't a practice. It is a daily learning experience.

- Unknown



Share your play
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