

Playing and interacting
Peek-a-boo



**MISCHIEVOUS
THE MONKEY**

Peek-a-boo

0-6 MONTHS

- 1 Sit facing Baby. Explain, "We're playing peek-a-boo"
- 2 Hide your face with material. Slowly and gently pull the material away – little babies can be startled easily
- 3 Smile at Baby, say, "Peek-a-boo!"
- 4 Play peek-a-boo with a toy. Pop it up behind the door, or table. Or cover your eyes with your hands
- 5 Try covering Baby's face briefly – uncover and say "Peek-a-boo!"
- 6 Watch Baby carefully – make sure they are happy – stop if they look at all unhappy

6-12 MONTHS

- 1 Face Baby. Explain, "We're playing peek-a-boo"
- 2 Hide your face with material. Gently pull the material away
- 3 Smile at Baby, say "Peek-a-boo!"
- 4 Let Baby pull the material from your face
- 5 Baby might ask for this game by tugging at material or putting it on their head. Playing teaches that you're listening
- 6 Use words like "Where have you gone?" "There you are"

12-18 MONTHS

- 1 Face Baby. Explain, "We're going to play peek-a-boo"
- 2 Hide your face with material. Pull the material away
- 3 Smile at Baby, say "Peek-a-boo!"
- 4 Peek-a-boo can now be quite boisterous – hide and jump out. Follow Baby's lead
- 5 Use words like "We're hiding," "Peek-a-boo teddy," "Here I am"

Peek-a-boo is a *fantastic game to play* wherever you are. When changing nappies, hide behind a clean nappy and pop out. Peekaboo *helps Baby feel special*, building your relationship together.

Playing and interacting
Taking turns



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Taking turns

0-6 MONTHS

- 1 Baby's first taking turns game is smiling. Once they are old enough to smile (usually 6 weeks), wait for them to smile and smile back. Keep taking turns as long as they want
- 2 Once Baby starts to laugh, take turns laughing
- 3 Copy any noises they make. Again, take turns with these
- 4 Don't worry if Baby loses interest after a short while

6-12 MONTHS

- 1 Wait for Baby to smile and smile back. If they smile again, keep taking turns as long as they want – don't worry if this is only a short time
- 2 Copy any noises they make. Baby will babble – this is a great time for copying noises and taking turns
- 3 Make different facial expressions, does Baby copy them? Make the faces slowly and exaggerate them

12-18 MONTHS

- 1 Wait for Baby to smile and smile back. If they smile again, keep taking turns as long as they want. Copy laughing and babble
- 2 Take turns building bricks or stacking cups to make a tower – say, "My turn, your turn"
- 3 Roll a ball or toy car between you. Encourage Baby to roll it back
- 4 Take turns to splash in a big bowl of water – talk about what you are doing

Don't worry if Baby hasn't got the idea about taking turns yet – these games introduce the idea. This helps when playing later with others and in conversation.