excitement... Excitement describes baby now - excitement in discovering all about the world. Make sure your house is baby proofed - electrical outlets covered, gates across stairways, and swallowables and breakables out of her reach.

- She is becoming mobile - rolling, scooting, crawling. She may even be pulling herself to a standing position by holding on to a safe table or couch.
- She likes to shake, bang, and drop things - just to see what happens.
- She likes to help in feeding, but not always with the best results. Have patience! Small, soft pieces of food are best. Remove skins from fruits.
- She is even better at copying the expressions and sounds you make.
- She may become afraid of strangers and cry when you leave.

playing with your baby...

- Baby enjoys playing pat-a-cake:
  - Pat-a-cake, pat-a-cake, Baker's man
  - Bake me a cake, as fast as you can
  - Pat it, and turn it, and mark it with a B,
  - And, put it in the oven for baby and me!
- Mirrors make great toys. Let him look in the mirror. Talk about what he sees.
- Tie a few toys on short strings (6 inches) to his high chair. He can practice dropping the toys and pulling them back up again.
- When sitting on the floor with him, hide a favorite toy under a blanket. Let him pull the blanket off and find the toy.
- Play follow-the-leader. When he claps his hands or pats the table, copy him. Keep the game going.
how about...a roly-poly.

Take a clear jar (popcorn, peanut butter, etc.) or empty plastic pop bottle (2 liter). Inside the bottle put one of the following items.

- a handful of cherrios or other dry cereal, or
- salt, or
- colored water or water with glitter in it, or
- sand

Screw lid back on and tape it securely. With the slightest push from a creeping baby, the bottle will roll and make interesting sounds and movements.

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He or She?

We give equal time and space to both sexes! That’s why we take turns referring to babies as “he” or “she.” So keep in mind that even if we say “he” or “she” we are talking about all babies.

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