



Fun To Play

for parents and their young children

Balls Things To Look Forward To

Here are some ideas for children newborn to three.

Heads Up (Newborn-1 month) - Lay the infant on his tummy on a partially inflated beach ball and roll him around.

The Looker (1-4 months) - Try putting the ball just out of reach and see if he reaches for it. He is beginning to develop the type of memory called object permanence.

Creepers-Crawler (4-8 months) - Try covering the balls with a blanket and show baby that the balls are still there when you remove the blanket. As he gets older, he will enjoy lifting the blanket and seeing that the balls are still there.

The Cruiser (8-12 months) - While sitting facing you, spread his legs apart and roll a ball between them to play catch. While your child is still crawling, inflate a beachball and roll it towards your baby. Crawl after him, pushing the ball just out of his reach so he has to move to get it.

The Walker (12-18 months) - Make sure your baby has opportunities to throw and roll balls of different sizes. Be a partner to your child in a ball game. He will learn the give-and-take that goes with being a partner.

The Doer (18-24 months) - Tubes and hula hoops make great targets for balls. Your child can throw and toss balls with accuracy.

The Tester (24-36 months) - Show your child how to kick a ball. Your three year old could engage in a game of blanket toss with another child. You will need a pillow case and an 8 inch ball. The children face each other and grasp the corners of the short end of the pillow case. Place the ball in the middle of the outstretched pillow case. Help the children bounce the ball off the case into the air. Help them catch the ball in their pillow case.

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