



OBSERVING AND LEARNING ABOUT YOUR CHILD'S INTERESTS

When you talk about or offer things your child is interested in during everyday routines and activities, your child is more likely to pay attention, interact, and learn new words, concepts, and skills.

HOW DOES YOUR INFANT LET YOU KNOW WHAT INTERESTS THEM?

When something interests infants, they may:

- turn their heads to look and listen
- roll, push, or crawl toward it
- reach for or grasp the object
- explore the objects with their mouths, hands, or feet
- show interest in (e.g., smile, explore, reach toward) the same object over time
- make sounds, coo, babble
- show curiosity, joy, and excitement (e.g., wave their hands, kick their legs, smile)



HOW DOES YOUR TODDLER LET YOU KNOW WHAT INTERESTS THEM?

When something interests toddlers, they may:

- point to it
- walk or run toward it
- ask you for it (e.g., “I want,” “give me”)
- play with the object for long periods of time
- want to explore it multiple times (e.g., reading the same book, playing with the same toy)
- talk about it (e.g., “Car! Big car. Red car.”)



HOW DOES YOUR PRESCHOOLER LET YOU KNOW WHAT INTEREST THEM?

When something interests preschoolers, they may:

- explore it multiple times
- spend long periods exploring it
- discuss what they know about it
- ask questions about it
- use it in their play (e.g., draw pictures, write words, build with blocks, model with play dough)

