

I did it!

Young children are delighted when they learn to make something interesting happen

What is the practice?

Young children feel TERRIFIC when they realize that they can make something interesting happen. You can help your child learn about his capabilities by responding consistently to the things he does while playing with you and by arranging toys and play materials so that he realizes he is causing them to produce fun and interesting effects.

This little one is thrilled to discover he can make the trinkets encased in a dozen plastic eggs rattle noisily in their package!



What a treat! Every time I make her clap, Mommy smiles and sings a silly song, and I dissolve in giggles!

How do we do it?

Learning opportunities like batting at a mobile or playing lap games like "Peek-a-boo" are more likely to get a child to smile, laugh, or become excited when she clearly sees that what she did produced an interesting response. When providing a child opportunities to play with toys and other objects, and when interacting and playing social games with her, be sure it's easy for her to see that she did it!



Is it working?

Does the child express happiness and excitement —smiling, vocalizing, laughing —when her actions lead to interesting and expected responses?

Does the child show more enjoyment and contentment when something she has learned to do always produces an expected response?



A tin washtub's delightfully deep tones invite joyful drumming again and again.

See it happen

Rattles, mobiles, maracas, key boards, wind chimes, roly-polies, busy boxes, and other toys that provide immediate feedback when a child touches or bangs them are just a few of the things that help him learn about his capabilities.

When playing lap games and engaging in other social play with a child, be sure that your response follows right after an attempt to "get your attention." Giving a tummy tickle each time he smiles at you, for example, is just one way of helping him realize: "I did it!"

