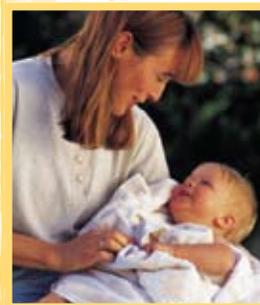


A child's interests are

Windows of Opportunity

to fun and enjoyable learning

Lap games and
fingerplays
are powerful
learning activities
for many young children



Places to learn and activities to enjoy **AT HOME**

Kitchen and dining room

When spending time with your child in the kitchen, enjoy rhymes with hand movements and fingerplays about food, cooking, and clean-up. For example:

Pat-a-cake, pat-a-cake, baker's man. (Clap hands and pat child's open palms.)

Bake me a cake as fast as you can. (Repeat.)

Roll it. Pat it. Mark it with a "B." (Mime these actions.)

Put it in the oven for baby and me! (Mime.)

Changing table

Diaper changes are just right for playing "Peek-A-Boo." Cover baby's face with a light blanket or clean diaper. Pull it away and exclaim, "Peek-a-boo!" You'll be rewarded with giggles. Cover your own face and play. Show baby how to pull the cloth from your face to hear that funny "Peek-a-boo!"

With toes up in the air, free and wiggly, it's a fine time to play "This Little Piggy Went to Market."

This little piggy went to market. (Grasp big toe and wiggle.)

This little piggy stayed at home. (Second toe.)

This little piggy had roast beef (Third toe.)

This little piggy had none (Fourth toe.)

And this little piggy cried, "Wee-wee-wee!" all the way home! (Littlest toe.)

Out in the yard

Did you spot a spider's web glistening with dew? It's the perfect time to play and sing "The Eensy-Weensy Spider."

The eensy-weensy spider climbed up the water spout. (Touch left thumb to right index finger, then right thumb to left index finger. Repeat while slowly lifting hands.)

Down came the rain and washed the spider out. (Flutter fingers while moving hands downward to represent rainfall. Cross hands, then move quickly apart to show washing away.)

Out came the sun and dried up all the rain.

(Curve arms above head, touching fingers, to represent the warm sun.)

And the eensy-weensy spider climbed up the spout again.

(Repeat motions used with the first line of the verse.)



Places to learn and activities to enjoy **AWAY FROM HOME**

Visiting Grandparents

Grandparents' laps are wonderful places for little ones to snuggle and play. You might be surprised to learn how many different lap games older adults know and would love to share with your young child. Among the many old favorites they might share are: "This Is the Way the Lady Rides," "Here Are Grandma's Glasses," "Open, Shut Them," and "Where Is Thumbkin?"

Playground or park

Sit on a park bench or on a picnic blanket spread on the ground and play games like "Whoops, Johnny!"

Johnny. (Touch tip of baby's smallest finger.)

Johnny. (Touch ring fingertip.)

Johnny. (Touch middle fingertip.)

Johnny. (Touch index fingertip.)

Whoops! Johnny! (Slide your finger down and up from baby's index finger to thumb; then slide back to index finger.)

Supermarket shopping

Your infant or toddler will be seated facing you as you push most shopping carts, so make supermarket trips extra fun by playing simple, face-to-face games as you walk up and down the aisles.

It can be especially fun to make up your own short, easy rhymes about the things you place in your cart:

**See the apples in a stack; Six red ones go in my sack!
Yellow bananas, one, two; One for me and one for you!**

Community center or library

Check the calendar of events at your community center or nearby public library and make plans to attend preschool story times. Children's librarians often include songs, fingerplays, and lap games in these sessions along with reading wonderful picture books especially chosen for their young audience. Moms and dads gain ideas for activities infants and toddlers will enjoy again and again. Ask

the librarian to help you find books you can borrow about lap games, nursery rhymes, fingerplays, and children's songs. Some of the titles to look for are:

I'm a Little Teapot by Shelagh McGee.

Knock at the Door by Kay Choro.

Pat-A-Cake and Other Play Rhymes by Joanna Cole.

Pocketful of Stars: Rhymes, Chants and Lap Games by Felicity Williams.

Ring-A-Round-A-Rosy by Priscilla Lamont.

Shake It to the One That You Love the Best by Cheryl Warren Mattox.

The Lap-Time Song and Play Book by Jane Yolen.

The Nursery Treasury by Sally Emerson.

Trot, Trot to Boston: Play Rhymes for Baby compiled by Carol F. Ra.

