

A child's interests are

Windows of Opportunity

to fun and enjoyable learning

Play with faces
is a powerful
learning activity
for many young children



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

Story time

- Choose picture books at the library that have simple stories and large, clear photos or artwork of faces.
- Take time to talk about pictures of faces while reading or telling a story, pointing to the features with comments like: "What bright brown eyes!" "Uh-oh, there's a sad face!" "Look at the man's bushy eyebrows!"

In the kitchen preparing meals

- Set her seat or high chair where she can see your face as you work.
- Talk to her about what you're doing. Make faces to express sensations: "Ooh, that lemon juice is so sour!" "Pots are hot; I need to be careful!"
- Make faces on her simple foods: Raisin eyes/nose/mouth on pancakes and open sandwiches or dollops of baby food in a face shape on a round plate.

Bathroom mirror

- Set him where he can watch your reflection in the mirror as you brush your teeth, comb your hair, wash your face, and/or apply makeup.
- Draw faces with your finger on the steamy mirror.

Changing table

- Spend plenty of face-to-face time while changing diapers and dressing him.
- Gaze into his eyes and talk or sing to him. Describe what you're doing so he can listen and watch your mouth shape the words: "Here's a clean diaper. Wrap him up, wrap him up! It feels **sooo** good to be dry. What a happy baby you are!"
- Hang interesting magazine cutouts of faces near the changing table.

Living room or family room

- Have fun with faces during playtime. Touch his nose and ask: "What's this?" Or ask, "Where's **my** nose?" Have him show you by touching it.
- Take turns playing "monkey see/monkey do" by making funny faces and mimicking them.
- Use a towel or blanket to play peek-a-boo.



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

Park or playground

- Carry her in a front pack or stroller that allows her to gaze at your face or turn her outward to look at the faces of other children and adults in the park.
- Show her how to see the reflection of her face on the surface of a pond or puddle. What happens to the reflection when you swish your hand through the water or when you toss in a small pebble?
- Ask her to point out the eyes, nose, and mouth of friendly pet dogs out for a walk or animals in a petting zoo.
- Show her how to use a stick or shovel to draw faces in the sandbox sand.



There's no doubt ...
faces are fun!

Riding in the car

- Tape cutouts of faces from magazines and calendars or photos of family members' faces on the back of the seat so she can look at them while strapped into her safety seat during rides in the car.

Supermarket

- Let him ride in the grocery cart facing you as you move through the market.
- Talk to him about the different items you select.
- Play peek-a-boo with him by holding an item in front of your face—like a cereal box or a head of cabbage—then popping out and saying "Peek-a-boo!"
- Show him the faces of people on food packages ("Do you think the children like this juice?"), signs, and magazine covers.
- Let him enjoy looking at the faces of shoppers, store managers, checkout clerks, and baggers.

