



Five things to do with under twos: expressive arts and design

Carry on doing the things you did with your baby, especially times to listen to and join in with music. As children get older they will enjoy singing with you and dancing or moving to music.



Encourage pretend play with dolls, teddies and other toys or drinking 'tea' from pretend cups.

Start to encourage children to make marks in different ways, such as pencils or paint on paper, or with a stick in the earth outside or with large paint brushes and a pot of water outside.

Continue to provide lots of things for children to manipulate and explore such as playdough, pinecones, pebbles, shells, different textured materials, sticks of different sizes (useful for making marks in sand or soil, or making noises by hitting plastic buckets or running along railings). Natural materials allow children to use their imagination rather than toys that may have only one way of being used.

Share lots of books with your child including simple stories and reference books with, for example, pictures of construction vehicles or animals. Include familiar stories where children can anticipate the ending or next page as well as introducing new ones.