



# CONDUCTING INFANT AND TODDLER PROGRAMS

Outline for "Lap Babies" and "Cruisers & Walkers" Programs  
Developed by Mary Frasier, Children's Librarian  
Monroe County Public Library

## PREPARATION

- choose theme
- collect appropriate learning materials - (toys)
- choose tape for entry and activity time
- nametags - baby and mother
- prepare and copy handouts

## PROCEDURES

- sort nametags in caregiver/child sets, or put both names on one tag
- arrange activity centers and put up high or conceal until you want to use them
- place introductory activities (books, put and take balls) in center of rug
- turn on the music
- lower the lights
- open the room
- help sets get situated / turn off tape

- circle time (librarian and parents sing) 10 - 20 minutes depending on attention span of group
- activity time (with quiet music) 20 - 40 minutes

## CIRCLE TIME MENU

- **Introduce song** (any simple, short song with a name in the lyrics. I substitute the name of each baby in the circle for that original name. Eg. "I Roll the Ball to Daddy," " Johnny Pounds with One Hammer," " Mary Wore Her Red Dress," "No One's in the House with Dinah")

## CHOOSE ONE OR TWO FROM EACH OF THE FOLLOWING:

- **Bouncing Games** like "Humpty Dumpty," "Ride a Cock Horse to Banbury Cross," "Mother and Father and Uncle John"
- **Tickling Games** like "Round and Round the Garden," "Itsy, Bitsy Spider" (I adapt traditional fingerplays by acting them out as tickling games on a baby's tummy or back.)
- **Clapping Games** like "Patty Cake", "Clap, Clap, Clap your hands," "If You're Happy and You Know It"
- **Foot Tapping Games** like "Hob, Shoe, Hob," "There's a Cobbler"
- **Leg Wagging Games** like "Leg Over Leg as the Dog Goes to Dover," "I Had a Little Mule"
- **Toe and Finger Counting Games** like "This Little Piggy," and "Fe, Fi, Fo, Fum"

## Tips and Suggestions for a Happy Baby Program

**Never make a baby cry.** Be flexible. Let your parents know that they do not have to follow your instructions to the letter. They should always feel comfortable adapting the movements and positions of an activity to suit their baby.

**Dim the lights if possible.** The babies in your program are receiving a lot of novel stimulation. The music, the people, the bright toys, and the circle activities are all very exciting to an infant or toddler. One way to minimize the possibility of overstimulation (which causes screaming and crying) is to keep the lights low and the background music fairly quiet.

**Consider handouts and displays carefully.** I usually display several items from each material format that would be useful to parents of young children. This includes baby board books, audio cassettes, CDs, videotapes, learning materials (toys), and parenting books. I have found that the parenting books do not circulate well after the programs. Many parents seem to prefer a brief handout gleaned from a parenting resource. This is why I like *The Well-Centered Child* and *Growing Child*.

*The Well-Centered Child* is a nicely-done monthly newsletter with sections for Infants and Toddlers, Preschoolers and Kindergartners, and Grade-schoolers. Subscribers have permission to photocopy and distribute all or part of each issue. To subscribe: The Well-Centered Child, P.O. Box 428, Naperville, IL 60566-0428 or call 1-800-453-7148.

*Growing Child* is an informative newsletter which focuses on child development one month at a time. Individual subscribers receive each issue devoted to their child's developmental age just before their birth date each month. Libraries may receive all the issues, 0-72 months in a convenient binder. This is a great way to offer parents information in a concise format. To subscribe: Growing Child, 22 N. Second St., Lafayette, IN 47902 or call 1-800-388-2624.

## **RESOURCES FOR LEARNING MATERIALS AND TOYS**

*Childcraft Education Corp.* 2920 Old Tree Drive, Lancaster, PA 17603 PH# 1-800-631-5652

*Constructive Playthings* 1227 E. 119th St., Grandview, MO 64030-11117 PH# 1-800-448-4115

*Discovery Toys* PH# 1-800-426-4777

*Lakeshore Learning Materials* 2695 Dominguez St., P.O. Box 6261, Carson, CA 90749 PH# 1-800-421-5354

---

By Mary Frasier, MCPL Children's Librarian (10/99)

Outline for "Lap Babies" and "Cruisers & Walkers" Programs is used courtesy of Monroe County Public Library and developed by Mary Frasier, Children's Librarian Monroe County Public Library, Monroe County, Indiana. It is located at <http://www.monroe.lib.in.us/childrens/babyprogs2.html>