



We've got important work to do!

together
we grow



A baby is born with a brain that still has a long way to grow... The first few years of life are the most important time to prepare babies for school and for adulthood. Everyone who is with the baby, even for a short time, makes a difference. Parents, grandparents, friends, sisters, brothers, neighbors, caregivers; everyone has the chance to affect every child they meet.

Hey, it's easy! All it takes is a little time and attention. Reading aloud, interactive play, and just spending time with a caring adult are all simple things babies and toddlers need so that they develop fully. This guide can help you find fun and simple things to do, so you can help the babies in your life have a great start in their own lives.

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Together We Grow



A baby's first three years are a time of great risk, but also a time of great opportunity. This is the time when most of a person's brain is developed.

When adults spend time with, read with and play with babies, they help those babies grow bright and strong; and that makes a better community for us all.

This guide provides ideas and Clark County resources for reading, playing and spending time with babies.

GIVE EVERY BABY EVERY CHANCE

90% of your child's brain develops between birth and three



We can get help or ideas in
Clark County from:

Help Me Grow
(322-2099)

Parents As Teachers
(342-4040)

Parent Infant Center
(322-4939)

Spend Time Together

WHEN YOU SPEND TIME WITH ME:

❖ I feel loved; I know that you love me.

(My brain grows and I can love you back.)

❖ I feel important to you.

(I learn that we belong together and you care about me.)

❖ I let you know how I feel and who I am.

(You understand my feelings and I understand you, too.)

How can we spend time together?

Look into my eyes and smile at me.

Talk to me about my world.

Listen to me.

Hug me often.

Eat with me.

Laugh with me.

Slow down and have 'quiet time' with me.

We can do this at meal times, while changing diapers, at the grocery store, in waiting rooms, at bedtime, and at bedtime.

Read Out Loud Together

WHEN YOU READ WITH ME:

❖ I use my brain.

(If I don't use it now, it won't grow.)

❖ I learn to say many words.

(When I understand and can use words,
I get along better with you and others.)

❖ I hear your voice and feel safe.

(When I'm not afraid, I can learn and be smarter.)

How can we read together?

I like to hear your voice, even before I'm born.

Read my favorite book over and over.

Let me hold the book and turn the pages.

Let's talk about the story.

Tell me a story.

Let me tell you a story.

Show me pictures and make up the story yourself.

Let me talk while you read the story.

We can read together at the library, the literacy center, in the car or bus,
in waiting rooms, and at bedtime.



We can get books, join in
story times, and get help
in Clark County from:

Clark County
Public Library
(328-6903)

New Carlisle
Public Library
(845-3601)

The Literacy Center
(323-8617)

We can find more places
to play in Clark County
by calling:

National Trail Parks
and Recreation
(328-7275)

Springfield Family
YMCA (323-3781)

Tecumseh YMCA
(845-3513)



Play Together

WHEN YOU PLAY WITH ME:

❖ I learn to follow.

(I learn to get along with you and others.)

❖ I learn to lead.

(I am free to imagine and share new ideas.)

❖ I learn to solve problems.

(When we figure things out together,
I have fun and want to learn more.)

How can we play together?

Get on the floor and let me pick the game and make the rules.

Let's go outdoors and explore the world.

Let's sing and dance.

Let's find things in the house and build things.

Let's pretend and play 'make believe.'

Let's take things apart and put them back together.

We can play at parks, on playgrounds, in play groups, outside, and inside.



This resource guide has been developed by the Clark County Family and Children First Council through the work of its planning committee for Early Childhood Education. We are committed to increasing awareness of the importance of the first three years of a child's life. For more information about your important work with your baby, call 322-2099.

We are grateful to the following organizations for helping us start this effort:

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We also thank those who participated in Partnerships for Success, especially the Early Childhood Education Workgroup.

We welcome and appreciate additional organizations and individuals who are willing to join us in this effort! Contact us at 327-1991.

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CLARK COUNTY
Family & Children First
COUNCIL



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FOUNDATION



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