



Social and Emotional Development **Activity for 6 to 12 Months**

Mirror, Mirror on the Wall

Babies love to look at themselves in the mirror!

Materials:

- Unbreakable mirror
- Puppets

What to do:

1. Place an unbreakable mirror on the wall near the floor in a place where the infant frequently plays. Encourage the infant to play near it and to notice her reflection. You may have to get on the floor with the infant and tap the mirror to get the infant to see herself.
2. Hold the infant in front of a mirror. Attract the infant's attention to her reflection and encourage the infant to reach out for it. Show the infant how to play patty-cake while she watches the mirror. Sing simple songs about body parts and touch the infant's tummy, nose, and hair while the infant watches.
3. Set aside a special time of the day for playing in front of the mirror (after a bath, after a nap, or when getting ready to go outside). Comb the infant's hair or put powder on the infant while she watches. Tickle the infant and make silly faces in the mirror to make her laugh. Dress and undress the infant in front of the mirror.
4. Put the infant on the counter in front of the large vanity mirror in the bathroom. (Always make sure the infant is in a secure seat). Place the infant close enough to touch the mirror image. Do your daily routines of brushing teeth, brushing hair, and shaving. The infant will learn the routines of various family members as she watches them and herself in the mirror.
5. Put a brightly colored puppet or sock over your hand and play with this in front of the infant. Put the infant in front of the mirror and play with the puppets. Try to get the infant to find and touch the puppet in the mirror.

Safety alert! Never leave an infant unattended on a counter.

