



Try It

Let's Explore

Use language to support and extend babies' explorations.

1. Choose 4–8 items from the list below to explore. Select at least one from each category.

- *Containers or wrappers:* boxes, paper bags, cups, plastic bottles, tissue boxes, cardboard tubes, plastic containers with lids, pans with lids, baby blankets or scarves, wrapping paper, spindles
- *Tools:* spoons, ladles, crayons, dowels, cardboard tubes, drinking straws, toy hammers or mallets
- *Objects that move or attach in interesting ways or make sounds:* rattles, squeakers, plastic rings, interlocking blocks, small balls, toy vehicles, chains, bendy straws, pipe cleaners, balls of putty or play dough, fabric swatches, scarves, shoe laces

2. Brainstorm and demonstrate at least ten things that an older infant might try as she explores these materials individually and in combinations.

3. List some of the interesting vocabulary words that you might use to support a child's exploration, help him with a challenge, suggest a new possibility, or celebrate a success.