

Where Did It Go? Looking and Touching

Instructions:

1. Put your hand in the puppet or hold the animal. Talk to your baby as if the puppet is talking. Have fun!
2. When your baby is engaged, put the hand with the puppet behind your back. Ask, "Where did it go?"
3. Let your baby look for it and find it. "There it is!"
4. Let your baby put the puppet on her hand and explore how to use it.
5. Keep playing as long as your baby is interested.

How to extend activity:

- Disappearing games are fun. As your baby starts to look for a hidden toy say, "I'm looking for the wagon. Where is it? There it is! It's under the blanket."
- It's easy to make your own puppet out of a stuffed animal that is losing its stuffing. Just pull it all out and open a space at the tail for your hand.

Materials:

- Hand puppet or stuffed animal and 3 to 4 board books



What they learn:

Motor: Playing with a puppet exercises your baby's hand and finger muscles.

Cognitive: Your baby is beginning to solve problems. She is following your eyes and looking for the disappearing toy. When a toy rolled behind a chair, she used to go on to play with something else. Now she will try to solve the mystery of the missing toy. She is developing an understanding that even when she can't see an object, it still exists. Object permanence is an important concept for this age.