

Toss a ball into a big box or roll it through a tube and then invite your child to look for the ball.

Repeating the game gives your child experience in predicting the outcome of his actions.



Why this is important

When you repeat a simple activity, your child will begin to anticipate what will happen because he has seen it happen before. Repeating the process of throwing a ball into a box helps your child learn to predict where to find an object that has gone from sight. Doing the game again and again helps him learn that he can act in a particular way with an expected result. This builds your child's self-confidence.

What you do

- Find a soft ball and a big box. Stand with your child several feet from the box and throw the ball into it. Ask, *Where did the ball go? Do you see it?*
- Encourage him to look into the box if he does not understand what you are asking.
- Wait for him to notice the ball, and respond with pleasure at his discovery. Repeat this process several times.
- Next, give the child a chance to throw the ball into the box from a few feet away. Respond with enthusiasm each time the ball is found.

Another idea

Try the game using a smaller ball and a tube. Hold the tube higher at one end. Invite your toddler to put the ball in the higher end of the tube. Guide his attention as you play: *There goes the ball! It's coming through the tube.* At first, he may look into the tube to find the ball. After a few times, he will begin to expect the ball to appear at the other end. Hold the tube in different ways to make the ball move fast or slow.