Especially for parents of infants!

Sure Winner Lap Games

Rhymes and Sound Awareness

Parent–infant lap games are a joy to babies. The lap games in this practice guide are often the first ones a baby plays. They will help your child vocalize and "talk" to you more and more.

What is the practice?

Lap games like ***Peek-a-Boo***, ***So Big***, and ***I'm Gonna Get You*** help infants learn about give-and-take during parent/child play. They are also a lot of fun! The more times your child plays the games, the more she will try to be part of the activity. The more she tries, the more likely she will squeal and make gleeful sounds.

What does the practice look like?

Lap games are a fun way to encourage a child to watch, listen, and learn to play with others. Lap games are your-turn/my-turn activities. At first, you will do most of the work. When your child becomes more familiar with a game, she will try to begin or do part of a game. Encourage your child to start or continue a game. This will help her learn she can get someone to play with her.

How do you do the practice?

Here are several simple but powerful lap games. They will give you an idea about how to make your baby a "star player." You can find many other lap games by searching the Web using ***infant lap games***.

- Wait until your child is alert and well-rested. This will make the games more fun. Most infants like to lie on their backs or face-up on their parent's lap while playing these games.
- Three lap games most infants enjoy are ***Peek-a-Boo***, ***So Big***, and ***I'm Gonna Get You***. There are no right or wrong ways to play such games. The important thing about lap games is the give-and-take and back-and-forth play between you and your child.
- ***Peek-a-Boo***. Cover your infant's eyes with a cloth. Remove it, and say "Peek-a-boo, I see you." Repeat the game when your child seems to enjoy it.
- ***So Big***. Gently stretch your child's arms above her head while saying "so big." Kiss or blow raspberries on your child's tummy after her arms are stretched out.
- ***I'm Gonna Get You***. Say "I'm gonna get you." Repeat the phrase three or four times. Move closer to your infant's face and finally kiss or tickle her neck.
- Play lap games as often as your child seems to enjoy them. This will help your child learn how a game is played. Encourage her to do part of the movements of the game. This can be something like lifting her hands above her head while playing ***So Big***. Any time your child vocalizes or makes any sounds, repeat them and make them part of the game.

How do you know the practice worked?

- Does your child try to start or do some part of the game?
- Does your child squeal, make sounds, or laugh as each game ends?
- Does your child seem to recognize how the game is played?

CELL practices
CENTER for EARLY LITERACY LEARNING

Take a look at more infant lap games

Let's Play "So Big!"

Three-month-old Madison and her father have developed a unique way of playing ***So Big***. She starts the game by raising her arms above her head and "hollering" to get her dad's attention. Dad then says, "Daddy sees Madison who is so, so big!" He tickles her under her arms. Madison squeals with delight and starts the game again. She and her dad repeat the game many times. Dad changes what he does by raising Madison's arms above her head and blowing raspberries on her tummy.

Hey, This Is Fun!

Daniel, 10 months old, loves it when his mother plays ***I'm Gonna Get You***. Mom starts the game by holding her hands out in front of her and closing and opening them. She says, "I'm gonna get Danny, I'm gonna get Danny." She moves her hands closer and closer to her son's stomach. She finishes by gently grabbing Daniel around his tummy and rocking him back and forth. Daniel gets her to "do it again" by looking at his mother and babbling happily.

What a Kick!

Eli, 9 months old, isn't able to use his arms and hands very well. But his mother has found a fun way to play ***Peek-a-Boo*** with him. Eli loves to kick and does so often! His mother attaches a ribbon to a small towel. She ties the other end to Eli's ankle with a Velcro band. Mom gently bends Eli's legs while placing the cloth over his face. She asks "Where is Eli? Where is Eli?" Eli kicks off the towel. His mother exclaims, "Peek-a-boo! I see you!" Eli now bends his knees on his own to tell his mom he wants to play the game again.

CELLpractices Is a publication of the Center for Early Literacy Learning (CELL), funded by the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs (H326B060010). The opinions expressed, however, are those of CELL and not necessarily those of the U.S. Department of Education. Copyright © 2010 by the Orelena Hawks Puckett Institute, Asheville, North Carolina (www.puckett.org).