



What is Babygarten?

Nursery Rhymes & Songs

Infants in the womb are soothed by the ever-present beat of a mother's heart. Babies of all ages still respond to a steady beat no matter what form it takes - rhymes, music, windshield wipers, dishwashers, etc. Rhymes also provide interesting repetition of the sounds we use in everyday language. Using familiar rhymes on a regular basis encourages your child to make sounds and eventually form first words.

Books

You will learn how to effectively share books with babies. We will also provide books for independent sharing, and the instructor may recommend books that are most popular with babies. For infants, a book represents the closeness of being held and the soft sounds that come from a familiar person. Eventually, they will understand how a book "works" and that the black squiggles somehow correspond to the sounds the reader makes. These are all pre-literacy skills that better prepare your child for a lifetime of learning.

Free Play

At the end of the session, we'll do what we *think* comes naturally to all caregivers. Playing is how babies learn, and your involvement can enhance their enjoyment and enlightenment. It's fun to see how other people play and how babies respond to each other. This is where some of your best discoveries will originate - either through observation or conversation (with babies and adults!)

Parenting Information

During the rhymes, reading, play or activities a myriad of skills or hurdles will be encountered. The instructor will provide information about many of these issues with articles, presentations, demonstrations or simply through conversation. We welcome your questions and will do everything we can to find solutions for you. Sometimes the best resource is the person sitting next to you on the floor!

Handmade Toys

The playthings that babies enjoy most are always the least expensive ones. You'll have the opportunity to construct simple, effective toys from items we all have around the house.