Dad’s Toolkit
6-12 Months

Sometimes as a dad you may feel awkward, but as your baby grows you will develop a very special relationship.

Dad, you play a unique role in the way your baby grows. You encourage your children to think differently which will help them in school and beyond!

Dad’s do it differently
(and that’s a good thing!)

- Moms and dads have different ways of handling babies. They have their own unique styles.
- Differences in holding and playing with your baby have a positive influence on brain development.
- Differences can result in better coordination, which can help in physical development and sporting skills.
- Dad’s involvement is important in the development of bonding.

Bonding with Baby

- **Take a walk** – There are healthy benefits for both of you!
- **Dance** – Put on some music and dance around the room with your little one.
- **Set a table for two** – Have breakfast or lunch together.
- **Encourage exploration** – From a rough beard to a silky moustache to a crew cut—little fingers love learning about you and their world!
- **Repetitive sounds** – Da-da, ma-ma, ba-ba are the first sounds your baby can make. Repeating these helps your baby connect to his language, world, and to you!
- **Make a play date** – Setting aside special time for the two of you lets him know he is special and that you’ll be there for him.
- **Keep your promises** – Your baby will learn from you. Teach him to trust by doing what you say you are going to do.
- **Play peek-a-boo** – Doing this builds your baby’s skills at communicating and expressing emotions.
- **Blocks, balls, cars and dolls** – These can be played with in lots of different ways.
- **Build a tower** – Babies will especially love knocking it down.
- **Be an actor** – Read books using different voices. Your little one will love it!
- **Get down on the floor** to play at baby’s level.
- **Tell baby you love her.**

**BE A GOOD ROLE MODEL**
Your baby learns by watching you.

(231) 995-6112

www.gtchd.org
Check out these websites for FREE info!

National Center for Fathering:  http://www.fathers.com/

Mr. Dad:  http://mrdad.com/

National Responsible Fatherhood Clearinghouse:  https://www.fatherhood.gov/

Great Dad:  http://www.greatdad.com/

Dad's Adventure:  http://www.dadsadventure.com/

Teach Early:  http://www.teachearly.org/

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This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Check out www.gtchd.org/1973 for additional resources for moms, dads, and babies.