

# your child @™

highlights of what's happening  
at this stage of your child's development...

## 2 months

Learning begins at birth and your child at two months has been learning a lot! They are already able to smile at you and tell you by crying if he's hungry, cold or scared. At this stage, the most important factors in their healthy development are loving relationships with warm, responsive and dependable adult caregivers. It's essential to make the most of this critical period in their growth by spending lots of time holding, cuddling, playing and reading with your child.

### your child's health

Make sure your child's immunizations are up-to-date. Typical immunizations at this age will include:

- DTaP (diphtheria, tetanus and whooping cough)
- Hib (protects against meningitis)
- IPV (polio injection)
- Hepatitis B
- Prevnar (pneumococcal)

#### The Well Visit

At two months, your baby should have another well visit.

- Bring notes with you about your baby's habits, such as sleeping and feeding, and ask any questions you may have at your visit.
- Until your baby is three months old, always call the doctor if he develops a rectal temperature of 100.4° F or higher.
- Your baby's next well visit will probably take place at four months. Contact the doctor if issues arise between visits about your child's health and development or illnesses.

#### take note...

According to the American Academy of Pediatrics, at two months, let your doctor know if your baby:

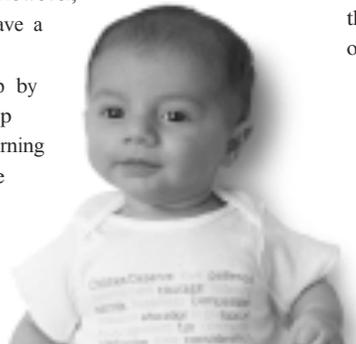
- Doesn't notice his hands.
- Doesn't smile at the sound of your voice.
- Doesn't follow moving objects with his eyes.
- Doesn't respond to loud noises.

#### Sleep

Your baby needs about 16 hours of sleep in a 24-hour period to maintain healthy development. Your baby should be starting to have one long stretch of nighttime sleep (between four to six hours). However,

They are still too young to have a set daytime nap schedule.

- Encourage nighttime sleep by putting your baby to sleep between 6 and 10 pm, turning off lights and keeping the area quiet.
- Always put your baby to sleep on their back to reduce the risk of SIDS.



#### Nutrition

At this age, your baby is not ready for cereal or any solid foods. Check with your doctor for information regarding the recommended guidelines.

#### safety tip...

Never shake or spank your baby. Shaking can cause brain damage.

#### Colic

Colic usually sets in between two weeks and three to four months of age. An infant with colic is an otherwise healthy baby who cries for more than three consecutive hours at a time, three days a week, for three weeks or more.

To console a colicky baby, try the following:

- Let your baby suck on a pacifier, bottle, hand or wrist.
- Rock or swing your baby.
- Take them for a drive or stroll.
- Swaddle your baby by wrapping them securely in a blanket.
- Try to stay calm, since your baby can sense when you are stressed.
- Create shushing sounds or white noise by running a hair dryer, a fan, a vacuum cleaner, the shower/water faucet, or a recording of wind or surf.
- Hold your baby on their left side or stomach until they fall asleep. Be sure to roll them onto their back once they are asleep.

# your child @<sup>TM</sup> 2 months

## your child's growth and development

### safety tip...

Keep small objects that present a choking hazard away from your baby. (Anything that fits in a toilet paper tube is too small.)

Read to Your Child from Day One. When you read together, you help your child learn to love books — and you!

- Introduce cloth or board books to explore.
- Choose books with bright colored pictures, familiar objects or photos of babies.

Play Together Right from the Start. Play allows your baby to explore and express herself, connect with other people and make sense of their surroundings.

- Make silly faces, tickle their body. You are your baby's first toy.
- Slowly move objects in front of your baby and watch as they track them with their eyes.

Sing Songs. Your voice will soothe your baby and the sounds and rhythms will teach her about words and language.

- Repeat your favorite songs and nursery rhymes again and again.
- Play fun music at play time, or relaxing rhythms to calm your baby at bedtime.

Talk to Your Baby. Babies learn by listening to you talk, so the more you talk to your baby, the better.

- Talk about what you see and what you are doing during everyday activities.
- Watch as they communicate through their coos, smiles, laughs and cries.
- Respond to your baby's sounds and give them time to respond to yours.

## nurturing your child



Take Care of Yourself, So You Can Take Care of Your Baby. Your moods and lack of energy can affect your baby as well.

- Let your doctor or a friend know if you have signs of post-partum depression, including feelings of sadness, anxiety or restlessness.
- Take breaks from your baby to rest and re-fuel.

Create a Predictable World for Your Baby. Providing routines lets your baby know that they can depend on you, allowing them to spend less energy fussing over their needs and more time learning.

- Create routines for your child to follow every day — children thrive on consistency.
- Build routines that suit your style. Before bedtime you can: read a book, give a bath, talk to stuffed animals, hug and kiss, say “I love you.”

Provide a Warm and Loving Environment. A baby's ability to learn depends upon their emotional well-being; a baby who is content and comfortable has an easier time learning about the world.

- Tune in and respond to your baby. An infant cries only to let you know that they need your help. Since you cannot spoil an infant, pick up your baby whenever they cry.
- Show them you care about them by making eye contact (at about 8 to 12 inches away), holding them close or rocking them in your arms.

### remember...

Discipline is never appropriate for infants. They have no control over their actions and therefore should not be held accountable.

## your child's safety

### In the Car

Your baby must ride in a car seat that is:

- Rear-facing.
- In the backseat (ideally, in the middle of the backseat).
- Properly attached or secured.

### remember...

Never leave your baby unattended anywhere near water. Babies can drown in less than one inch of water.

### In the Crib

- Empty the crib of blankets, pillows, and stuffed animals — any of these can smother the baby.
- Avoid devices that maintain sleep positions since many of these have not been tested for safety and none have been proven to decrease the risk of SIDS.
- Keep your baby's room at a temperature that's comfortable for adults — don't make it too warm.

Born Learning<sup>SM</sup> is a public engagement campaign helping parents, caregivers and communities create early learning opportunities for young children.

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