



ISSUE 28 SUMMER EDITION

Bringing Out the Best

SUPPORTING THE SOCIAL & EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT OF YOUNG CHILDREN IN
GUILFORD COUNTY

Make the Most of Play this Summer





Make the Most of Playtime

Does This Sound Familiar?

Eight-month-old Jamia loves the game of peek-a-boo she and her father play. Jamia's father, Tomas, hides his face behind the couch then pops up and with a big smile says, "Here's Daddy!" Tomas and Jamia repeat the interaction over and over. Each time Tomas pops up from behind the couch, Jamia expresses sheer glee. After a number of repetitions, Tomas becomes tired of the game and is ready to move on to things he needs to do. Once Tomas stops playing and starts to fold laundry, Jamia screams and shrieks, stretching and waving her arms out to her dad as if to say, "Don't stop!" or "More! More!"

Jackson (age 14 months) throws his sippy cup in the trash. His mother, Danette, gently picks it out, washes it off, and hands it back to him. Only seconds later, Jackson throws his sippy cup in the trash again, giving his mother a wide smile. Danette, a bit distracted and frustrated, takes the sippy cup out again, washes it off, and gives it back to him. This time, she scolds Jackson. She tells him the sippy cup doesn't go in the trash and to stop playing in the trash. Before Danette can distract Jackson with another game or remove the trash can to another location, he throws the sippy cup in the trash again. He looks to his mother with another wide smile, appearing proud and eager for her reaction.

The Focus

Babies and toddlers love to play. As a parent, it can feel overwhelming at times. You might feel like your young child thinks everything is a game. Often young children want to repeat their games over and over. They also want to test the boundaries to learn what is appropriate and what is not. For busy parents, this can test your patience. Sometimes it might seem as though your child wants to "play" exactly at the time when you have other things that must be done.



Click Here

To read the CSEFEL Article on practical ways to enhance play with young children.

Beat the Heat



**DIY Ice Chalk
activity
Instructions**

Click Here

**Click here
for
Instructional
Video**



with Ice Chalk

Have summer fun with weekly screen-free activities



Maker Monday: STEM and crafts. Build cardboard box castles, mix baking soda and vinegar for fizzy science, or use recyclables to invent new toys.



Active Tuesday: Indoor movement. Set up a living room obstacle course, play balloon tennis, or follow along with high-energy dance and stretch videos.



Water-play Wednesday: Sensory exploration. Fill the sink or a sensory bin with water and cups, paint with water on the driveway, or run through the sprinkler.



Discovery Thursday: Exploration and learning. Build a living room fort, look for bugs in the backyard with a magnifying glass, or do a "color scavenger hunt."



Fairy-tale/Fantasy Friday: Storytelling and dramatic play. Act out a favorite book, dress up in costumes, or put on a puppet show with mismatched socks.



Loose Parts

What are Loose Parts?

Loose parts are materials that children can manipulate, move, and use in various ways during play. These can include natural items (like stones and leaves), recycled materials (like bottle caps and cardboard), or any small objects that encourage open-ended play. The beauty of loose parts is their versatility, allowing children to use them in countless ways, fostering creativity and exploration.

Disclaimer: As always, supervision is needed when using small parts with young children as they can pose a choking hazard.



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**Bringing Out the Best
wishes you a fun-filled summer!**

