

*Little Cause,
Big Effect*

MINI KIT PLAY GUIDE

9M+

LOVE

EVERY[®]

Hi, You

Hi, you!

Do you remember the first time you saw your baby do something on purpose?

When they were 4 to 6 months old, most of what they did was accidental. A rattle shook and made a noise because they happened to move their arm. A bell chimed overhead because their foot made contact with it when they were kicking. Water splashed in the tub because their hands opened up and slapped the water's surface.

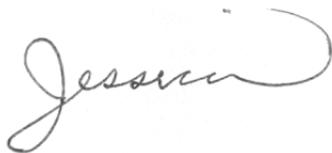
Between 6 and 9 months, your baby's actions became more deliberate, and they began to notice cause and effect—an important cognitive leap. Now, at 9 months or more, they shake the rattle, chime the bell overhead, or splash the water on purpose. Watch them light up when something responds to their touch. It's almost as if they're thinking, *Did I just do that?*

Get ready for their experimentation with cause and effect to intensify. Your baby isn't just observing outcomes now—they're testing them. Drop a wooden ball into a box, and it makes a *thwack*. Drop the same ball on the carpet and it makes no sound. They'll try the same action over and over, then change it up just to see what happens. This repetition helps build your baby's understanding about how the world works.

At this stage, they may also start to explore social cause and effect. For example, when they do something that makes you laugh, they'll do it again and again—as long as you keep laughing. They're tuning into how their actions influence not just objects, but people too.

Enjoy this special time.

XO,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jessica". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping tail that loops back under the name.

Jessica Rolph
Cofounder and CEO



Included with the Little Cause, Big Effect Mini Kit



'UH OH!'
BOARD BOOK



MAKING SOUNDS
RAIN RATTLE



DROP & FIND
BALL BOX



IT'S ME!
MIRROR

Important safety note: Always supervise your baby during tummy time, and place them on a low, safe surface. Avoid thick bedding, pillows, or other soft materials that may pose a suffocation risk when your baby is on their belly.

Cause & Effect

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Experimenting with objects

Your baby is no longer just passively alert. They actively study, compare, and organize every object or experience they encounter. Watch them as they bang something harder or more softly, drop an object from higher up, or shake a rattle—first slowly, then quickly—to test the difference in sound.

What you're witnessing is a process called sensory integration. Your baby's brain is now blending input from their senses—including sight, sound, touch, and movement—to give them a fuller understanding of how the world works.





Give your baby:

- A clear tube to drop a ball through and a clear container to drop a ball into. Babies love to see the contrast.
- A tour of your house. Put your hand over your baby's and help them flip the lights on and off, turn on the water faucet, and tap on a window to make a sound.
- Objects of varying weights, like the Opposites Balls from The Thinker Play Kit.
- Pouring containers and tubes to experiment with water during bathtime.
- Graspable toys they can bang together—like the Egg Cup from The Explorer Play Kit.

Experimenting with their body

Between 6 and 12 months, your baby will discover that their body is both an object to explore and a tool for doing. This is when movement becomes more than reflex. Now, it's a way to interact.

Your baby isn't just moving when they kick, bang, clap, or swat. They're learning, "My body can make something happen outside of me."





Give your baby:

- Floor time with playthings that let them explore cause and effect, like the Shake and Roll Wobbler or the Stainless Steel Tip & Turn from The Explorer Play Kit. Batting at an object that gets away from them as they scoot or pivot shows them that they can use their body to make something move.
- Objects that make noise as your baby plays with them—like the Batting Ring on The Play Gym.
- A description of what they're doing. You can say, "You shook the rattle and it made a sound!" This reinforces the connection between cause and effect.

Experimenting with you

Playing peekaboo with a baby is practically an adult instinct. Have you ever wondered why? Of course, this game is one of your baby's earliest lessons in object permanence—the idea that something out of sight still exists. But as your baby grows, peekaboo also becomes a lesson in cause and effect.

When you cover your face with a scarf or your hands, then reveal yourself and say “peekaboo,” you create a predictable sequence your baby can study. After enough repetition, they realize that they can cause you to say “peekaboo” by pulling the scarf off of your head or tugging your hands away from your face. When they giggle with delight, you start the game again. This is social cause and effect.





Give your baby:

- Imitation games—they clap and you clap back, they babble and you respond with the same sound, they bang on something and you repeat their movement.
- Toy handoff games around 12 months. Your baby hands you a ball. You take it, then hand it back and say, “Thank you!”
- A tower of soft blocks to knock over. Say “boom” or “crash” each time the tower falls. This signals to your baby that they made something exciting happen.
- A neutral response when they toss food or utensils from their high chair. Your baby will start to watch your face closely to see how you react.

Tip

**Give your baby increasingly harder
problems to solve—what's difficult now
may be easy for them in a week or two.**

LOVEVERY®

The Playthings



Practice hand-to-hand transfer

6 to 9+ months

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Practice hand-to-hand transfer

Wooden & Rattle Balls

Why do this

To pass a ball from one hand to the other, your baby has to coordinate their left hand with their right. This development is easy to miss, but it's a gateway skill—all of your baby's fine and gross motor development to come depends on it. It means the two sides of your baby's brain are working together and communicating.

How to do it

- Offer your baby the wooden ball first. Then, gently shake the rattle ball and set it next to your baby near the hand that's holding the wooden ball.
- Your baby will have to problem-solve to get the rattle ball. You'll know they're figuring it out if you see them reach across their midline with their other hand, intentionally drop the wooden ball, or transfer it to their other hand so they can pick up the rattle ball.
- As your baby gets better at grasping and manipulating the rattle ball, you may see various experiments in cause and effect—like shaking it faster or harder, banging it on a hard surface, or knocking it against the wooden ball.



Find the hidden ball

6 to 9+ months

Find the hidden ball

Drop & Find Ball Box

Why do this

Between 6 and 9 months, babies begin to understand that an object still exists even when they can't see it. This is a concept experts call object permanence, and it's a big deal in your baby's brain development. Before, they were only aware of what was in front of them. Now, their whole world is expanding—it includes everything they can't see. This is where cause and effect come in. If your baby understands there's a ball in the box, they'll reach inside or tip it over to make the ball reappear. Now they know they can make things happen.

How to do it

- Show your baby one of the balls and drop it in the hole on top of the box. A baby at 6 to 9 months old isn't quite ready to do that on their own. Wonder aloud, "Where did the ball go?"
- Offer your baby the box and give them time to try and figure out where the ball went.
- If they don't look for the ball or reach into the box, you can gently shake it so they can hear the ball rolling around inside.
- It will be easier for your baby to retrieve the ball from the ribbon side at first. Opening the drawer is a more challenging skill that your baby may be ready for at 10 to 12 months.



Social cause and effect

9+ months

Social cause and effect

'Uh-Oh!' Board Book

Why do this

Uh-oh acts like a little verbal signal—it grabs your baby's attention, sets up a moment of suspense, and helps them make connections between actions and outcomes.

Uh-oh is an early social word that helps your baby connect their actions—like dropping a toy—with your response—picking it up. Over time, they may start to say “uh-oh,” too.

How to do it

- Begin reading the book slowly. Say “uh-oh” with playful exaggeration each time it appears: “Uh-oh, the scarf is falling!” Pause, lift the flap together, and say, “There it is!”
- Repeat this rhythm on each page. Say, “uh-oh,” then pause to build anticipation before the resolution—“There it is!”—as you lift the flap. Your baby will begin to notice the pattern: Something's wrong (*uh-oh*), but something fun happens next.
- With repetition, your baby may start to smile or vocalize in anticipation, or even try to lift the flap.
- Look for natural ways to include *uh-oh* in your daily routine, like when a block tower tips over, a toy duck flips in the bath, or water spills. Repeating this phrase in a consistent, playful way helps your baby learn to link language with events.



Drop the ball in

9 to 12+ months

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Drop the ball in

Drop & Find Ball Box

Why do this

Around 8 to 9 months, babies begin developing voluntary release, which is the ability to intentionally let go of an object. But aiming that object into a specific opening—like the hole on top of the ball box—usually comes a bit later. As fine motor control and hand-eye coordination improve around 10 to 12 months, your baby will be ready to try dropping the ball into the hole. This gives them practice with precise hand movements and planning as well as the satisfaction of making something disappear.

How to do it

- Start by modeling: Hold the ball over the hole and let it drop with an enthusiastic “In it goes!” Then, offer the ball to your baby. If they don’t aim for the hole yet, try holding the ball just above it and releasing once your baby touches the ball.
- Over time, with repetition and encouragement, their aim will get more precise and they’ll succeed in getting the ball in the hole more often. Even if the ball doesn’t make it in or rolls around the top of the box before accidentally landing in the hole, celebrate your baby’s progress.
- To entice them to aim for the hole, you can tap the ball on top of the box a few times before dropping it in. Repeat the tap-tap-tap-drop sequence a few times, then give your baby a turn. If they tap the ball on top of the box, gently guide their hand closer to the hole.



Open the drawer

10 to 12+ months

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Open the drawer

Drop & Find Ball Box

Why do this

At first, your baby will likely retrieve the ball from inside the box by reaching through the ribbons. The drawer presents more of a challenge—both in terms of problem-solving and motor coordination. Before your baby makes the connection between dropping the ball in the hole and pulling the drawer open to find it, they'll need to know how a drawer works. As they problem-solve, they'll practice the motor skills to open it by hooking their fingers in the notch and sliding it open.

How to do it

- Place the ball inside the drawer and close it most—but not all—of the way. Ask your baby, “Where did the ball go?” and then open the drawer again. Give your baby a chance to get the ball and play with it for a moment.
- Return the ball to the drawer, close it, and ask your baby, “Can you find the ball?” Give them time to problem-solve. If they can't find the ball, open the drawer a little bit to get it started for them.
- You can place other objects in the drawer to entice your baby to open it—like a teether, a block, or a rattle.
- Once your baby is able to open the drawer on their own, position the box with the drawer side facing them and drop the ball in the hole on top. Ask your baby, “Where's the ball?” If they seem confused, you can gently shake the box and say, “I hear the ball in there.”



Making things happen on purpose

10 to 12+ months

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Making things happen on purpose

Making Sounds Rain Rattle

Why do this

A plaything like the rain rattle is ideal for exploring cause and effect. When it tips, your baby can see the tiny balls roll down the ramp and hear them make a sound. At first, this likely happens by accident or because you tip the rattle for your baby. But soon, they may get curious about how to make the balls roll down the ramp again and again. As your baby shakes or tips the rattle, they're testing a hypothesis: "If I do this, what will happen?"

How to do it

- Show your baby how to make the balls inside the rain rattle move and make noise. Slowly tip the rattle over, then tip it back.
- Hand it to your baby and let them try. Watch and see if they repeat your deliberate tilting motion.
- The rain rattle is a great incentive to get your baby to move. For example, if they're not yet crawling, you can place the rain rattle upright on its end near your baby in tummy time. They'll likely knock it over as they reach for it and may need to pivot, scoot, or try to crawl after it as it rolls away.
- Use the Making Sounds Rain Rattle as an instrument. Play or sing a song as you shake the rattle to the beat. Then, hand it to your baby and see what they do. You can say, "Here, you try it."



Baby in the mirror

10 to 12+ months

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Baby in the mirror

It's Me! Mirror

Why do this

Your baby is starting to understand that they can make things happen. For example, if they open the It's Me! Mirror, a face appears. Your baby may smile, babble, or reach toward the “other baby,” but they don't yet understand that they're looking at their own reflection. That comes later—sometime between 18 and 24 months.

How to do it

- As you open the mirror, you can say, “Peekaboo! Who's that?”
- Your baby may smile at their reflection or reach for the baby they see in the mirror. Close it again and say, “Where did the baby go?” Then, open it once more with excitement: “There you are!”
- Give your baby a chance to open the mirror. Open it slightly and pause to see if your baby lifts it the rest of the way. If they do, say, “There you are!” and close the mirror again.
- Every time your baby opens the mirror and hears your fun response, they practice social cause and effect. This reinforces your baby's growing understanding that their actions can lead to predictable, playful reactions from you.

More Lovevery



More *fun and learning* from Lovevery



Uh-Oh, do you need more Lovevery books?

Scan the QR code to explore your baby's favorite books



Your baby is ready for a new challenge

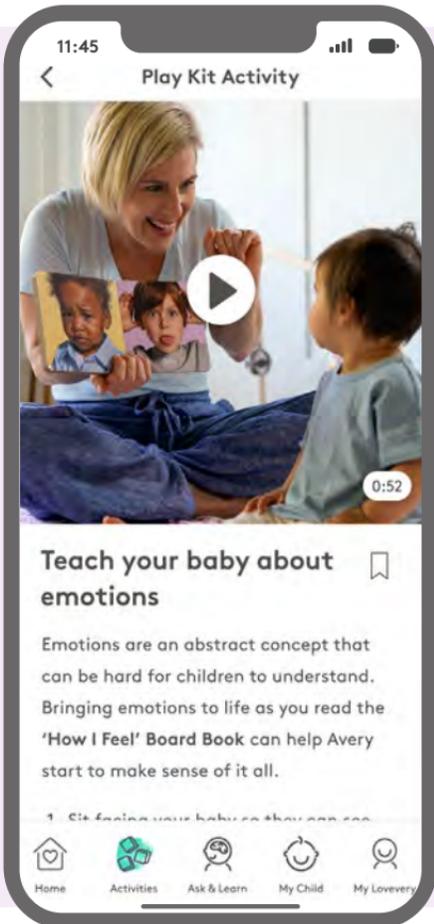
Get the Wooden Peg Drop in The Thinker Play Kit



Just add water

Scan to explore more cause and effect with The Bath Set





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Could your baby be *craving* more?

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