

# Reach for It!

*You're reaching  
your arms so high!*



When your baby reaches for your tie or scarf, use your smile and voice to tell him he did something special.

Your baby learns that you will give him your biggest smile each time he reaches for your tie.



## Why this is important

Your baby will need to know how to make his hands and eyes work together in order to reach objects. At first he will only kick and swat randomly. When he gains better control of his hands, he will grab an object and play with it. The good feeling he gets from your positive reaction to his efforts encourages him to practice this skill and increases his understanding of cause and effect.

## What you do

- Tie a scarf or necktie around your neck so the ends dangle in front of your baby.
- Shake the scarf or tie gently to draw his attention to it, or help him by first touching the material to his hand.
- Smile broadly and talk to him when he makes any move toward the scarf or tie. This encourages him to reach again. *You grabbed Daddy's tie. You are so strong.* **Do not leave your baby unattended with a scarf, tie, or other material such as beads, string, or cords longer than 6 inches. These are strangulation hazards. Also avoid choking hazards by making sure that beads, bells, etc. cannot come loose and be swallowed.**

## Another idea

In order to encourage your baby to continue playing the game, vary the objects you hang around your neck. He may enjoy reaching for a beaded string, a soft toy, or a bell. Introduce a variety of textures and colors by altering the item each time.

### Let's read together!

*Pat the Bunny*  
by Dorothy Kunhardt