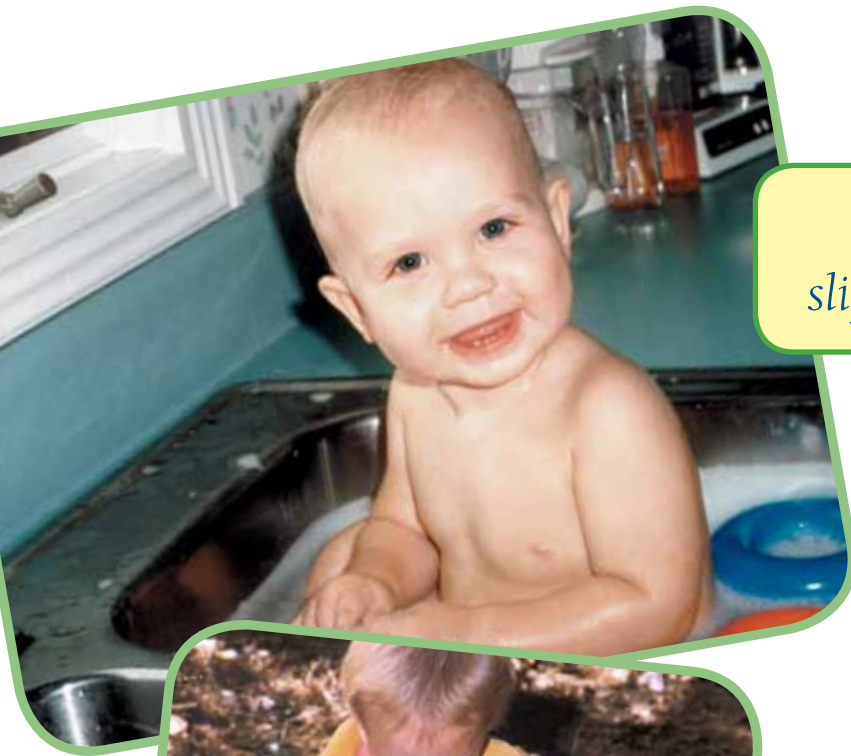


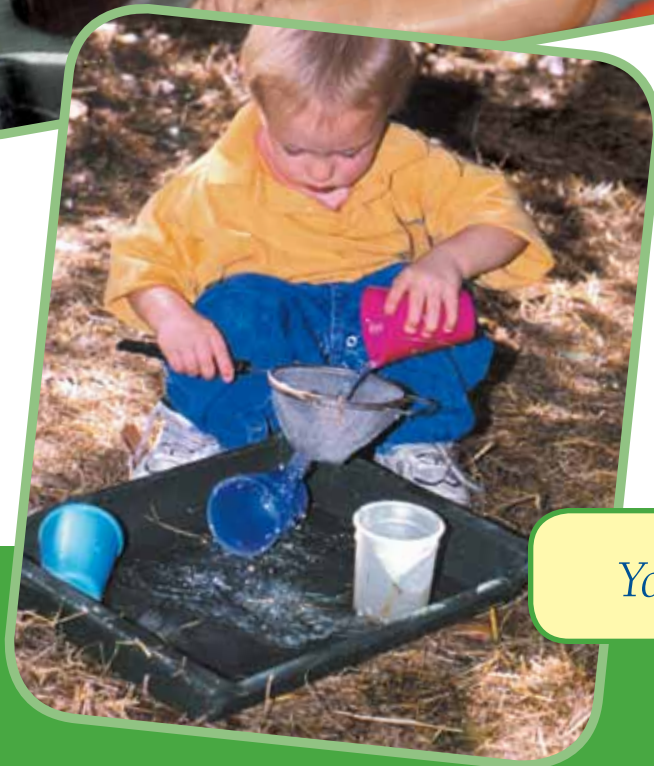
Water Play



The soap feels slippery, doesn't it?

Without directing him, invite your child to play with water while you say what is happening.

Your child may understand the meaning of most of your words when they describe exactly what he is doing as he does it.



You're good at pouring water.



Why this is important

Young children enjoy water because it moves in unexpected ways. Talking about your child's actions as he plays with water can help him understand the meaning of your words because he can relate them to what he is doing.

What you do

- During bath time, give your child a few toys and talk about everything he sees and touches. *The duck makes a splash when you drop him. The soap is making bubbles on your tummy! See how the warm water goes drip-drip-drip from the faucet?*
- When playing outside, give him a dishpan partly filled with water. Offer him a few toys and plastic cups to play with. Talk about his actions. *You poured water into that cup until it overflowed. You have two hands in the water. You're smiling. I think playing in the water makes you happy.*

Another idea

Find other opportunities for water play. Let him play with water in the sink as you wash dishes, or let him linger for a moment in the soapy water after washing his hands. Talk about what he is doing.

Let's read together!

Splash!
by Sarah Garland