Guide to your baby's first year pdf

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Developmental Milestones Skills such as taking a first step, smiling for the first time, and waving "bye-bye" are called developmental milestones in how they play, learn, speak, behave, and move (like crawling, walking, or jumping). In the first year, babies learn to focus their vision, reach out, explore, and learn about the things that are around them. Cognitive, or brain development means the learning process of memory, language, thinking, and reasoning. Learning language is more than making sounds ("babble"), or saying "ma-ma" and "da-da". Listening, understanding, and knowing the names of people and things are all a part of language development. During this stage, babies also are development. The way parents cuddle, hold, and play with their baby will set the basis for how they will interact with them and others. Positive Parenting Tips Following are some things you, as a parent, can do to help your baby during this time: Talk to your baby. She will find your voice calming. Answer when your baby makes sounds by repeating the sounds and adding words. This will help him learn to use language. Read to your baby. This will help her develop and understand language and sounds. Sing to your baby and play music. This will help his brain development. Praise your baby develop a love for music and will help his brain development. Praise your baby when she's alert and relaxed. Watch your baby closely for signs of being tired or fussy so that she can take a break from playing. Distract your baby with toys and move him to safe areas when he starts moving and touching things that he shouldn't touch. Take care of yourself physically, mentally, and emotionally. Parenting can be hard work! It is easier to enjoy your new baby and be a positive, loving parent when you are feeling good yourself. Child Safety First When a baby becomes part of your home is a safe place. Look around your home for things that could be dangerous to your baby. It also is important that you take the necessary steps to make sure that you are mentally and emotionally ready for your new baby. Here are a few tips to keep your baby safe: Do not shake your baby, you can damage his brain or even cause his death. Make sure you always put your baby to sleep on her back to prevent sudden infant death syndrome (commonly known as SIDS). Read more about new recommendations for safe sleep for infants here. Protect your baby in a rear-facing car seat in the back seat while he is riding in a car. This is recommended by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration pdf icon[1.15 MB / 1 page]external icon. Prevent your baby from choking by cutting her food into small bites. Also, don't let her play with anything that might cover her face. Never carry hot liquids or foods near your baby or while holding him. Vaccines (shots) are important to protect your child's health and safety. Because children can get serious diseases, it is important to protect your child is up-to-date on her vaccinations. Healthy Bodies Breast milk meets all your baby's needs for about the first 6 months of life. Between 6 and 12 months of age, your baby will learn about new tastes and textures with healthy solid food, but breast milk should still be an important source of nutrition. Feed your baby slowly and patiently, encourage your baby to try new tastes but without force, and watch closely to see if he's still hungry. Breastfeeding is the natural way to feed your baby, but it can be challenging. If you need help, you can also call your local WIC Program to see if you qualify for breastfeeding support by health professionals as well as peer counselors or use an online directory to find an International Board-Certified Lactation Consultantexternal icon in your community. Keep your baby active. She might not be able to run and play like the "big kids" just yet, but there's lots she can do to keep her little arms and legs moving throughout the day. Getting down on the floor to move helps your baby become strong, learn, and explore. Try not to keep your baby in swings, strollers, bouncer seats, and exercise saucers for too long. Limit screen time. For children younger than 18 months of age, the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) recommends that it's best if babies do not use any screen media other than video chatting. Make sure your child gets the recommended amount of sleep each night: For infants 4-12 months, 12-16 hours per 24 hours (including naps) For More Information CDC's "Learn the Signs. Act Early." Campaign For more details on developmental milestones, warning signs of possible developmental delays, and information on how to help your child's development, visit the "Learn the Signs. Act Early." campaign website. CDC's Essentials for Parenting Toddlers and Preschoolers Learn ways you can help build a safe, stable, and nurturing relationship with your child. CDC's Breastfeeding Information This site has answers to frequently asked questions about breastfeeding. CDC's Information on Infant and Toddler Nutrition Tips for Parents – Ideas to help children maintain a healthy weight. CDC's Protect the Ones You Love CDC's Injury Center has information on how you can protect your child from drowning and other common causes of injury. CDC's Information on Vaccinations View the immunization schedule for infants and children and find out if your child's vaccinations on health and nutrition for 2 through 5 years of age. My Plate – Infantsexternal icon The U.S. Department of Agriculture provides information on health and nutrition for 2 through 5 years of age. My Plate – Infantsexternal icon The U.S. Department of Agriculture provides information on health and nutrition for 2 through 5 years of age. 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CDC's Adolescent and School Mental Health Learn how connection is key to good adolescent mental health. CDC's Parent Information (Teens 12—19) This site has information to help you learn how to guide your teen to be safe and become a healthy and productive adult. CDC's Healthy Weight Information. Tips for parents – Ideas to help children maintain a healthy weight. CDC's Youth Physical Activity Guidelines This site has information on how to help children be active and play. CDC's Pregnancy Prevention for Teens. Tips and information especially for teens and designed with input from teens. CDC's BAM! Body and Mind CDC's BAM! Body and Mind is a website designed for kids 9 through 13 years of age, to give them the information they need to make healthy lifestyle choices. The site focuses on topics that kids told us are important to them—such as stress and physical fitness—using kid-friendly lingo, games, guizzes, and other interactive features. 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