

How Things Work: **Play Makes Things Happen**

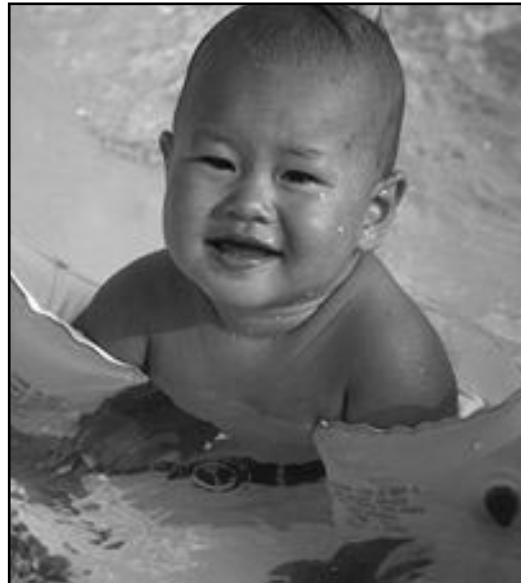


Understanding how things work is an important part of your child's intellectual development. As young children play, they begin to wonder how things work and become "little scientists." They learn through trial and error as they explore. Providing opportunities for young children to experience cause and effect encourages connections to occur in their

brains. They learn that something happens because of their action. Young children will repeat their action over and over ensuring that those important brain connections are made. Through cause and effect activities, children learn problem solving, one of the most important skills needed for success in school and life.

Fun toys and activities that make things happen:

- crayons and paper
- pull toys
- balls
- cars and trucks to push
- jack-in-the box
- squeeze toys
- surprise boxes
- pop up toys
- toys or objects that make sounds
- knobs to turn
- switches to turn on and off (like the light switch, TV remote)



Sand Play: Exploring sand with measuring cups, different size containers, digging tools, sifters, etc. helps children learn about size and volume as well as practice fine motor skills.

Water play: Playing in water with different size containers, funnels, plastic cups, sponges, etc. lets children experiment with filling and pouring.

Blocks: Stacking, sorting, and building with blocks helps children learn about balance and size, important for learning math.