

# You and Your Baby

## Months 9 and 10



### Baby's Safety & Health

Children are natural explorers. They use their five senses and natural curiosity to explore and learn. They depend on us to prepare their environment to be as safe as possible.

In these months, your baby is learning to crawl, pull up, and stand. So babyproofing is especially important. Keep in mind the following safety tips:

- Keep small objects such as coins, buttons, straight pins, and marbles out of reach.
- Foods such as popcorn, peanuts, small hard candies, lollipops, and whole hot dogs, or any type of round food can cause your baby to choke.
- Keep breakable objects out of reach.
- Stay with baby while he is in the bath and/or wading pool.
- Keep plastic bags and balloons out of reach.
- Choose toys that are age appropriate. Make sure small toys are too large to swallow. A good measuring device is two times larger than the size of the mouth or the open end of an empty paper towel tube. Also:
  - No sharp edges.
  - No small parts.
  - Non-toxic labeled.
  - Keep toys clean.
  - No cords or strings more than 12 inches long.

- Keep household cleansers, beauty supplies, medicines, and gardening supplies out of reach. Keep vitamins and alcohol out of reach, too.
- Keep pot handles turned toward the back of the stove.
- Turn the water heater down to 120 °F.
- Watch your baby while he is in the high chair—sometimes babies try to stand up in it.
- Put the crib mattress to the lowest level. Be sure to remove bumper pads and large stuffed animals the baby could climb up on.
- Make sure all electric cords and window blind cords are out of reach.

For extensive child safety information, visit [www.mychildsafety.net](http://www.mychildsafety.net) or read Extension Publication 2322 Home Safety for Children.

### Family Focus

Relatives, especially grandparents, can be a special part of your baby's life. Grandparents can provide a support system for you and your family. They can provide warmth, security, and loving care. Give them clear and positive suggestions how they can help you.



MISSISSIPPI STATE  
UNIVERSITY  
EXTENSION SERVICE

## Baby's Development

### *Physical*

Your baby's large motor skills are developing. He has probably begun crawling. Once crawling has begun, pulling up to stand is the next step. Your baby can—

- pull up while holding on to furniture, but he may have trouble getting back down.
- stand for awhile if you hold his hand.
- pick up small objects with his finger and thumb, and big objects with both hands.
- sit by himself and turn his body all around.

Even though your baby may begin trying to stand and walk, he cannot be potty-trained. Babies at this age cannot control their bowels. Be patient. The right time developmentally is later on—after about 18 months.

### *Social/Emotional*

This is a time when your baby continues to need to be held and cuddled. She is learning that she is a person. She will begin to imitate you and others around her. She likes to perform for others and enjoys being praised for her efforts. During this time, babies seem to be more sensitive. She may cry if another baby is crying. Just comfort and soothe her.

### *Mental*

Your baby is learning fast! He is learning by exploring his world. He uses his eyes, ears, nose, mouth, and hands—all five senses. He likes to put objects in and take them out.

Children learn through repetition, so don't be surprised when he will play a game over and over. His ability to remember is improving, and he will stay with an activity for a longer period of time. He will begin to remember a game, person, or toy from yesterday.

Understanding familiar words like "eat," "mama," "doggie," "cat," and "bye-bye" begins to be important. He will like to hear you name objects. This is how he learns to talk—listening to you and trying to imitate. He begins to say two-syllable sounds, such as choo-choo, da-da, and ma-ma. It is important to continue talking, reading, and singing to your baby.

This is a great age to engage your child in reading. You can make your own books with photo albums. Insert pictures of family members, favorite animals, or shapes. Use board books your child can handle without tearing the pages, and encourage him to help you turn the pages and put the books on the shelf.



*This information sheet is one in a series called **You and Your Baby**. Contact your county Extension office or visit [www.childcaremississippi.org](http://www.childcaremississippi.org) for more information on you and your baby. The American Academy of Pediatrics also provides educational reading materials at [www.healthychildren.org](http://www.healthychildren.org).*



**MISSISSIPPI STATE**  
UNIVERSITY  
EXTENSION SERVICE  
**msucares.com**

Revised and distributed by **Dr. Louise E. Davis**, Extension Child and Family Development Specialist.

Discrimination based upon race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability, or veteran's status is a violation of federal and state law and MSU policy and will not be tolerated. Discrimination based upon sexual orientation or group affiliation is a violation of MSU policy and will not be tolerated.

#### **Information Sheet 1379**

Extension Service of Mississippi State University, cooperating with U.S. Department of Agriculture. Published in furtherance of Acts of Congress, May 8 and June 30, 1914. MELISSA J. MIXON, Interim Director (POD-05-10)