



What is Babygarten?

Babygarten is a program that brings caregivers and babies together for an hour of stimulating experiences intended to nurture the bond between caregiver and child AND to increase the caregiver's awareness of the child's development. *Babygarten's* primary focus is the healthy development of infants aged 0 - 18 months old with an emphasis on language enrichment and pre-literacy skills.

The program includes:

Nursery Rhymes and Songs - Infants in the womb are soothed by the ever-present beat of a mother's heartbeat. Babies of all ages still respond to a steady beat no matter what form it takes - rhymes, music, windshield wipers, dishwashers, etc.

Rhymes also provide interesting repetition of the sounds we use in everyday language. Using familiar rhymes on a regular basis encourages your child to make sounds and eventually form first words.

Book sharing - We'll read books in unison (yes, the same ones over and over!), and the instructor may recommend books that are most popular with babies. For infants, a book represents the closeness of being held and the soft sounds that come from a familiar person. Eventually, they will understand how a book "works" and that the black squiggles somehow correspond with the sounds the reader makes. These are all pre-literacy skills that better prepare your child for a lifetime of learning.

Parenting Information - During the rhymes, reading, play or activities a myriad of skills or hurdles will be encountered. The instructor will provide information about many of these issues with quick facts, demonstrations or simply through conversation. We welcome your questions and will do everything we can to help you find answers. Sometimes the best resource is right next to you!

Handmade Toys and Mementos - The playthings that babies enjoy most are always the least expensive ones. You'll have the opportunity to construct simple, effective toys from items we all have around the house. Also, to help you remember the fleeting moments of your child's babyhood, we'll make some items that are perfect for grandparent gifts or the baby book.

Free Play Period - At the end of each session, we'll do what we THINK comes naturally to all caregivers. Playing is how babies learn and your involvement can enhance their enjoyment and enlightenment. It's fun to see how other people play and how babies respond to each other. This is where some of your best discoveries will originate - either through observation or conversation (with babies and adults!).



Baby Garten, Inc.

*"Growing happy, healthy babies....
one rhyme at a time."*

Starting in April
at
Boyce Ditto Public Library

Join us for the 1st ever
infant group story time
at the library for
ages 0 to 18 months!

This Spring session
will start
Friday, April 9
and will run every
Friday through May 14

You **MUST** register to reserve a
spot for you and your child!

Register at the library - ask for Tiffany

For more information call Tiffany at the library (940) 328-7880 or
E-mail childrenslibrarian@mineralwellstx.gov

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