

# Mouthing Toys

## Primary Objectives

11d. Shows curiosity and motivation

## Why It's Important

Infants explore objects using all of their senses, especially their mouths. Make sure that you have toys that are appropriate for mouth exploration (e.g., toys that can be washed easily and that don't have any long strings or small parts that could pose a choking hazard).

## Materials

None

## What You Do

1. Have toys available that are safe for infants to mouth.
2. As your child explores the object, acknowledge his play. *You put that rattle in your mouth.*
3. Ask questions and use words that describe the sensory experience. *Did that rattle feel smooth on your tongue?*
4. Observe your child for a response. For example, if he coos and puts the rattle back in his mouth you might say, *You like the way that rattle feels.*
5. Offer toys with varying textures that he may explore with his mouth. Clean the toys regularly, as needed.