

# Clap, Clap Your Hands



**Age** 5 months

**Materials** None

**Setting** Supported seating for infant as needed

**Description** Model hand clapping. Provide hand-over-hand demonstration initially. Then, let the infant watch you clap and imitate. Sing a catchy tune while you clap.

## Learning Outcomes

**Social Emotional** Child engages in social games with familiar people through playful back and forth interactions.

**Approaches to Learning** Child observes adult and imitates his or her action. He or she shows interest in rhymes, songs and/or simple games.

**Large Motor Skills** Child begins to develop gross (large) motor skills and builds skills in coordination, balance and body awareness. Child imitates activities involving gross motor movement and gains voluntary control of arm movements.

**Did You Know?** Clapping one's hands together brings the infant's hands together at midline. As children grow and develop, caregivers should provide experiences for them to reach at and across midline. Crossing midline refers to the ability to reach across the middle of the body with the arms and legs crossing over to the opposite side. Being able to cross this imaginary line down the center of the body is an important developmental skill that is necessary for later tasks such as reading, writing, putting on socks and shoes, participating in sports and other everyday activities. Children who have difficulty crossing midline often switch hands mid-task. Visual tracking can be affected, which impacts reading, which requires left to right visual tracking.

**Movement Milestone** At 5 months, infants swipe at objects. They make contact but do not grasp yet. They begin to make primitive grasping movements with fingers but objects are not yet accurately held yet.

**INFANTS**