Playing and Learning with BUBBLES!

Bubbles are often available at the dollar store. Small bottles work better than large heavy ones!

With your baby...

• Pick a time when your baby is happy and awake.

• Show your baby the bottle and say "bubbles" or "blow bubbles" in a happy excited voice. Use words like "bubbles, pop, more, all gone, up".

• Blow bubbles slowly so your baby can see your mouth and the bubbles. Watch for your baby to look at you (or move his arms and legs in excitement) to tell you he wants more. This is called "serve and return."

• Use your finger to point to and follow the bubbles.

With your toddler...

• Practice blowing without the bubbles. Help them 'feel' the blow on their hand or face.

• Hold the bubble bottle for them or attach it to a tree or chair outside with an elastic or tape. (It's hard to blow bubbles and hold the bottle too!)

• Model words like "pop, up, more, bubble, all gone, my turn, bye bye."

• Use bubbles to practice turn taking. This is the beginning of executive function and thinking skills development.

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With your preschooler

- Practice opening and putting the lid on by themselves. Talk about "asking for help".

- Gather kitchen tools and see which ones make bubbles and which don't. (try whisks, potato mashers, straws)

- Blow bubbles and try to catch or pinch them before they hit the ground, take turns. Encourage stomping, jumping and chasing bubbles.

- Look at the colors inside the bubbles. Talk about the colors in the surrounding play area.

- Model new words like stomp, clap, catch, pinch, multi-colored, iridescent, shiny, high, low, humongous, tiny, etc.

- If your child is reluctant to have bubbles on their hands, try gloves or mittens. Let the bubbles touch your skin, talk about how they feel. Let your child chose whether he gets bubbles on his skin or not.

- Link bubbles to the soap bubbles that you make when you wash your hands. "The more bubbles you make the cleaner your hands will be."

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