

Object Permanence

WHAT IS OBJECT PERMANENCE?

Object permanence means **a child understands that things, and people, still exist even when they cannot be seen or heard.** It is an important developmental milestone and a concept that was pioneered by child psychologist Jean Piaget.

WHY IS OBJECT PERMANENCE IMPORTANT FOR CHILDREN?

Understanding object permanence signals an important development in an infant's working memory, as it means they can now form, and retain, a mental representation of an object. It also marks the beginning of a baby's understanding of abstract concepts.

Activities to Support Object Permanence



Peek-a-Boo

This is done by covering the face with hands, blanket, or any other available material. Children will eventually learn how to play the game by initiating to cover their faces and understand you will still be present after revealing hands.



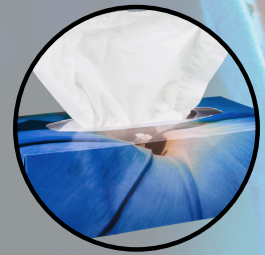
Container Game

As children explore the sensorimotor stage (0-2y), they would enjoy having container play. This play helps them develop object permanence and cause and effect thinking. Recycled containers of different sizes, shapes and colour can serve as their toys.



Roll

For this game, you'll need an empty roll of toilet paper or wrapping paper, and a small ball. With your baby watching, take the ball and place it in one end of the empty roll. Keep the roll flat and after a few seconds, pour the ball out the other end.



Tissue Box

Take an empty tissue box, and with your baby watching, stuff a long colourful silky scarf or length of ribbon into the box. Count out loud to three, then reach in and slowly unfurl the fabric from the box.

Object
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in the EYFS