

Creative Movement for Older Babies and Toddlers: RELATIONSHIPS
over/under around/through on/off above/below
near/far beside/between in/out connected/apart
Ideas to relate the concepts of RELATIONSHIPS to the multiple intelligences:

- Visual/Spatial:** "Chips in a can" Using an old coffee can with a tight fitting lid, cut a slot in the top big enough for a poker chip. Give your child a pile of chips to "feed" into the can. Explore shaking the can and taking them out again. (You could also try this activity with a shoebox and playing cards or junk mail!)
- Kinesthetic:** CRAFTY! Funnel sand. Use playsand (or cornmeal) in a basin or shallow bowl with a simple funnel (you can buy one at a kitchen store or make one out of cardboard and tape) Practice those pouring skills. Can your child use a spoon or his finger to fill the funnel? Can you use a funnel to put colored sand or cornmeal in a jar?

Colored cornmeal: Use a small drop of food coloring in a ziploc baggy full of white cornmeal. Children enjoy squishing the colors into powder!
- Linguistic/aural:** SONG! "London Bridge" (*Dance in a circle, holding hands like a bridge*)
London Bridge is falling down, falling down, falling down.
London Bridge is falling down, my fair [child's name]
(*Hold your child around her waist and gently rock her back and forth*)
Take the key and lock her up, lock her up, lock her up
Take the key and lock her up, my fair [child's name]

(This song can also be adapted for getting dressed: "Now I put my arms through, arms through, arms through...my feet, etc.)
- Logical/math:** Collect paper bags (sizes can vary) and make spiffy blocks out of them by stuffing them with newspapers and taping them shut. Now you and your dancer can play with building towers above and below, over and under. Can you make a shape with your body over the blocks? What about under? If you don't have time to MAKE blocks, why not pull the pillows off the sofa to play with? You can make an obstacle course right in your living room! Is it easier to balance big things on little things, or the other way around? Explore how buildings in our city are built!
- Musical:** SOUND WALK As you're out for your usual stroll, listen for unusual sounds. Can you find a construction site? What are the rhythms of mixing, pouring, digging, and moving? Are there different sounds you hear on the street? Can you find a quiet place, too?
- Emotional:** BLANKET PRETEND Use a blanket or sheet to play fort, house, car, airplane, bus, farm, picnic... or put the blanket over pillows to pretend it's a mountain to climb together. There are endless social games to play with this simple activity as you relate to each other and fire up your imaginations!
- Practical life:** Children can begin to help you set the table for meals. ("The fork goes next to the plate, the cup goes above the knife.") They can carry spoons, for example, one-by-one from the kitchen and put them on the table! Another fun activity for babies and toddlers is emptying a wastepaper basket. Save junkmail, envelopes, crumpled paper and let them help you recycle. Most kids love to help with this cleaning up!
- Rainy-day-extra-trick-up-your-sleeve** Little kids love to pretend to read, and enjoy new visual stimuli. You can save junkmail that you get and give them a "mailbox" (a shoebox with a hole cut in it works well) on a rainy afternoon, it can be lots of fun for your child to check his mailbox and read what's inside.