

## Creative Movement for Older Babies and Toddlers: DIRECTION

- Visual/  
Spatial: Crafty! Using recycled cardboard from a cereal box or egg carton, you and your little one can make some spiffy creatures--maybe spiders or birds, whatever you like! Attach them with yarn and play with "hiding" them up in a paper towel tube and letting them fall down, pulling them backwards and forwards across the floor or swinging them side to side.
- Kinesthetic: If you're inside and need something fun to do, why not build an obstacle course that explores different directions? Use mats, pillows, make tunnels out of sheets (okay to do this with sheets you were going to wash anyway!) and play with moving up/down, forward/backward, side-to-side, even in a circle!
- Linguistic/  
aural: Older babies and toddlers seem to need nearly constant attention sometimes--even at the dinner table. Here's a fun song that explores directions that you and your partner can take turns singing while the other one wolfs down food!  
Tap, tap, tapping on the table (*tapping with fingertips*)  
Tap, tap, tapping on the table  
Tap, tap, tapping on the table  
Until it's time to STOP (*raise your hands up*)  
(You can vary the verb and object in this song for variety, like "rub, rub, rubbing on the placemat" or "hold, hold, holding onto the cup," etc.
- Logical/  
math: Crafty! Emphasize the different directions as you tear bits of tissue paper to decorate shoe boxes, cereal boxes, oatmeal containers, etc. Construction paper is fun too. Help your child to make lovely direction collages using nontoxic glue or a simple paste made up of flour and water (Watch out -- might be messy!) As s/he plays with these objects, adding his/her own creative flair, the directionality and geometry of rectangles,, cylinders and squares comes through! (If you're truly keen on this project, you could make a little *city* or *block* out of homemade buildings and let your child explore moving toys up, down, forward ,backward and sideways through the town.
- Spiritual/  
nature: Out and about! As you're outside, notice with your little one what goes up and down, what goes forward and what goes backward.
- Musical: Song!  
*Choo-choo Train*  
Here comes the choo choo (*or subway*) train (*marching together*)  
Coming down the track.  
First it's going forward (*dance forward*)  
Then it's going back (*dance back*)  
Hear the bells ringing  
ding-a-ling-ling (*move side to side*)  
Hear the whistle blowing (*move down, then up*)  
Whoa, whoa (*freeze*)
- Emotional: Older babies and toddlers think it's grand to help you. Help them to make a game out of cooperation by moving in different directions together as you clean up toys, pick up clothes, etc.
- Practical life: Little ones love nature, and flowers are a nice way for them to relate to it. Your child may enjoy arranging leaves or flowers for you in a small vase or jar--supervise, of course, so she doesn't munch her creation!

**Don't forget: We're online! Check out [www.sparkplugdance.org](http://www.sparkplugdance.org) for more fun ideas and class updates!**