

Did you know?

- Babies can hear the sound of their mother's heartbeat and the voices of their family members while they are still inside the womb.
- Babies love to look at contrasting patterns. Simple black and white patterns in baby books or on mobiles grab and hold their attention.
- Young babies need their nappies changing 10–12 times a day!
- Many babies will be soothed to sleep by the whirring sound of the tumble dryer or vacuum cleaner.
- Babies first start to smile at their parents when they are about two months old.
- By the time they are two years old, most toddlers can speak at least 50 words.
- The name children call their mum is similar across many languages, such as 'mamá' in Spanish, 'mai' in Punjabi and 'me' in Vietnamese. This is because one of the first sounds babies make is 'ma'.
- Reading stories to babies helps them to build their vocabulary and boosts their imagination.
- All memories are linked to the senses. Smell is a powerful memory trigger and can link us back to our early memories.
- Barbie was invented in 1959. She was named after a little girl called Barbara who wanted to play with adult dolls as well as her baby dolls.
- Mr Potato Head was the first toy to be advertised on TV. It started out as a 'funny face' kit with plastic features that could be stuck onto fruit or vegetables.
- The *Happy Birthday* song was written by a teacher in 1893. The words were originally 'Good morning to you' and the song was intended to be sung to children as they arrived in the classroom.
- The music for *Teddy Bears' Picnic* was composed in 1907 and was originally called the *Teddy Bear Two-Step*.
- The first home video games were made by Atari in the 1970s. They made the game *Pong* which was a simple tennis game. The screen was black and white with a net down the middle and two paddles for batting the ball backwards and forwards. Very different to the computer games of today!
- Dentists recommend that you brush your teeth twice a day for at least two minutes.
- Mnemonics are an imaginative way of learning facts, figures and the spellings of tricky words!
- Tradition says that it is good luck for a bride to be kissed by a chimney sweep on her wedding day!