



We are big fans of the rainbow ribbon toy that you've been sent as our June toy of the month and we hope that you enjoy using it too. In our printable, we've put together some activity suggestions on how to use it with your baby.

#### For our younger babies in a lying down position

Shake the rainbow ribbon above them, aiming towards their nose rather than forehead so that they are looking in front of them rather than tilting necks backwards. Hold it still to give them a chance of fixing their gaze on the toy and slowly move it side to side but within their eyeline so they are practicing their eye muscle control.

Hold it over to one side to try and get them to turn their head towards the toy, practicing a motor response in response to the toy, and then do to the opposite side too. If you find that they are more reluctant to move to one side, this is the side that you need to keep practicing on to make sure that they have full motor control.

Run the toy over hands and feet so that they can feel the ribbons, open up little hands to grab the hoop.



### **Tummy time**

Tummy time is a great opportunity to use the rainbow ribbon, it is a great toy for distraction and attract their attention. For our babies who are starting to move, pop the toy just out of arms reach to get them to stretch and balance for it.

#### For older babies, in a sitting position

Shake the rainbow ribbon in front of them to get both hands to come to the centre to catch the toy. This works their balance, motor skills and hand to eye co-ordination. If your little one is just getting their sitting balance make sure that they have cushions next to them to give them some extra support.

After perfecting the two handed grab it is time to hold it to one side to get one hand to come out and grab the toy, make sure you practice on both sides and if they find it harder to do on one side, do give them lots of opportunity to practice.

Give your little one the ribbon toy and persuade them to do some shaking, see if they can copy your movements.



#### Music time

There are so many rainbow themed songs that you can use alongside using the toy. Pair it with a maraca so that they are shaking their ribbon and can hear the soft noise it makes compared to the louder noise a music toy makes.

Remember all of the motor skills that our babies get are through lots and lots of practice and this toy gives great opportunities to use the smallest muscles in their eyes and fingers to the larger arm, shoulder and core muscles so it is a great toy to practice balance, tummy time and co-ordination with.

Have lots of fun and we'd love to see your photos!

**Safety first** - please ensure that your little one is supervised with the toy at all times. Keep your little one in arms reach and eye sight when they are playing

