CRAWLERS’ BEACH

The Crawlers’ Beach experience features a jetty (with glass peep holes), submarine (with two way glass and a periscope), sensory beach towels, tummy time sea creature pillows and a treasure chest (full of books and games to play with). The experience was designed in consultation with Early Years educators and Early Start researchers to translate research into practice to create a purpose built area for those from birth to two years.

Vision

Babies’ eyes are the windows to learn almost everything about their new world. Vision develops with early vision only making out light, shape and movement. A newborn can only see about 20 to 30 centimetres - far enough to make out the person’s face who is holding them.

Black, red and white have been selected for the majority of our colour palette as they provide a good contrast for babies to make out the patterns and shapes. The other colours have been kept to a soft, natural palette so as not to overstimulate, but to also stay true to nature.

Self awareness and self recognition

People learn through watching and observing others. We imitate the actions and intentions of others to help us learn new skills. Mirrors can help to develop a child’s self awareness, self recognition and your child’s vocabulary. By talking with your child when using a mirror, your child may smile, reach out to the “other” baby and slowly point as they recognise themselves. Mirrors have been placed on the outside of the submarine to allow for those children pulling themselves up, and ready to walk, to see themselves.

Tummy Time

Playing with your child on the floor helps to strengthen neck muscles to assist them in holding their head up. Encouraging rolling, crawling and ‘pulling up’ helps your child build muscles and upper strength, which will benefit and help your child as they begin to walk. The soft sea creature pillows have been designed for parent and child to comfortably sit during tummy time and connect with one another. The beach towels have been created to provide sensory elements and encourage further tummy time. Children can pull at the tags, feel the different textures, look at the various animals in the fabric and imitate the different facial emotions.

Gross Motor Skills

As your child begins to reach and grasp for objects you dangle over them or hand to them, they start to develop their gross motor skills. Reading and playing with your child helps to build that connection and encouragement for further development.

The submarine and jetty’s edge have been built at an appropriate height to provide your child with a sturdy support, to pull themselves up to a standing position, to practise their balance, and to help cruise along (ie. stage before walking when children use supporting items to aid walking), all of which help your child building confidence to take their first steps.

Reading

Gentle activity is just as important for your baby’s development as the bigger movement play. This quiet time can help encourage fine motor skills and coordinating small finger movement as your child manipulates different objects. Reading to your child is a great activity that will build connection between parent and child as well as literacy development. A treasure chest is provided filled with board and soft fabric books and toys for you to select and enjoy with your child.

Why no technology? Australian guidelines recommend no screen time for children under two years, switching off your own screen and giving your baby your full attention will help your baby’s development and learning.