



### **Basic Characteristics of Infants**

The work of infants is developing *Basic Trust*.

- Depend on adults to care for them
- Have physical and emotional needs intertwined
- Are born with unique personalities
- Display individual temperaments (active, cuddly, distant, curious)
- Develop attachments to parents and caregivers
- Like to watch other children
- Use all five senses to learn about their world: seeing, hearing, tasting, touching, smelling
- Are fascinated with their most interesting play thing – a caring adult
- Communicate with their bodies, their actions, and their sounds
- Explore first their bodies, and then their world, as they begin to stretch, sit up, crawl, and walk
- Love the traditional games of babyhood which promote coordination and development of attention (Patty Cake, This Little Piggy, Peek-a-Boo)
- Practice new physical skills-grasping, reaching, picking up, pushing, etc.
- Begin to practice separating as they crawl away