This paper is an exploration of the relationship between babies and technology and it draws on my ethnographic study about how pre-verbal babies use and engage with culture in their everyday life. The aim of the project is to explore how we can understand culture as a phenomenon through looking at what babies themselves do with culture rather than what kind of culture is directed towards them. I am using the stories of the babies own engagement with the technology I brought with me into their world during fieldwork. I use it as a point of departure to ask questions about what babies own engagement with research technology can tell us about their relationship with technology in their everyday life. How are babies engaging with the technology around them? Or how can we understand the role technology plays in family relations?

The sensorial, embodied and messy aspects of conducting visual ethnographic research with babies in their everyday life is, for me, a way to think through how method and methodology is done in the research field and how the babies’ engagement – or disengagement – with me and the technology are an important factor in the enactment of method. Method is here a material process where bodies and senses are an integral part of certain methodological decisions when gaze, feelings, body size, or touch comes to matter. The small video camera I brought with me during fieldwork became not only a tool for capturing visual images of babies and their engagement with cultural objects, it also became a cultural object in itself for the babies to engage with. While I was managing the practical aspects of filming and simultaneously interacting with the babies, they were making my methodological struggles into a site for understanding the research subject – babies’ everyday culture.

Keywords: technology, Babies, culture, method