

mirror (Fig. 9-8). As motor skills develop, they learn that parts of their bodies are useful; for example, their hands bring objects to their mouths, and their legs help them move to different locations. All of these achievements transmit messages to them about themselves. Therefore, it is important to transmit positive messages to infants about their bodies.



**FIG 9-8** A 9-month-old infant enjoying own image in mirror.

## Social Development

Infants' social development is initially influenced by their reflexive behavior, such as the grasp, and eventually depends primarily on the interaction between them and their principal caregivers.

Attachment to their parents is increasingly evident during the second half of the first year. In addition, tremendous strides are made in communication and personal–social behavior. Whereas crying and reflexive behavior are methods to meet one's needs in early infancy, the social smile is an early step in social communication. This has a profound effect on family members and is a tremendous stimulus for evoking continued responses from