

must take place for mutual satisfaction to occur. This coincides with Erikson's concept of the formation of trust.

The second major accomplishment is achieving the concept of **object permanence**, or the realization that objects that leave the visual field still exist. A typical example of the development of object permanence is when infants are able to pursue objects they observe being hidden under a pillow or behind a chair (Fig. 9-7). This skill develops at approximately 9 to 10 months old, which corresponds to the time of increased locomotion skills.



FIG 9-7 A 9-month-old infant is able to find hidden objects under a pillow. (Photo by Paul Vincent Kuntz, Texas Children's Hospital, Houston, TX.)

The last major intellectual achievement of this period is the ability to use symbols, or **mental representation**. The use of symbols allows infants to think of an object or situation without actually experiencing it. The recognition of symbols is the beginning of the understanding of time and space.

The first stage, from birth to 1 month old, is identified by infants' **use of reflexes**. At birth, infants' individuality and temperament are expressed through the physiologic reflexes of sucking, rooting, grasping, and crying. The repetitious nature of the reflexes is the beginning of associations between an act and a sequential response.