

Helping Kids Discover and Develop Language

6 Months

1. The infant babbles.

The infant makes various speech sounds and consonants sounds emerge such as “buh”, “mah”, “guh”, “goo”, “boo”.

SUGGESTION: Imitate your infant’s sounds. Babies love to hear their caregivers copy their sounds. This is important for speech development.

2. The infant vocalizes pleasure and displeasure.

The infant may squeal with excitement or may scream in anger.

SUGGESTION: React appropriately

3. The infant is more responsive to siblings and caregivers than to strangers.

This is natural because infants spend more time with family than with strangers. Babies love familiar faces.

4. The infant responds upon hearing his/her own name.

The infant responds to his/her name by establishing eye contact with the caregiver and/or using various facial expressions.

SUGGESTIONS:

- When saying your infant’s name, look at him/her and attract his/her attention
- Go out of your way to meet your infant’s gaze when saying his/her name
- Guide your infant’s face towards your face to help make eye contact

5. The infant smiles and laughs in response to adult’s smiles and laughs.

SUGGESTIONS:

- Maintain face to face positioning when you talk to your baby
- Use a lot of facial expressions
- Simultaneously move around, sing, and rock your baby
- Remember routines your baby enjoys and use these to induce laughing

6. The infant begins to imitate various sounds.

During interactions with caregiver, the infant will imitate speech sounds (e.g. “ba”, “ma”) and non-speech sounds (e.g. tongue clicks, coughs)

SUGGESTIONS:

- Imitate your baby’s sounds and actions
- Maintain close physical contact with your infant

7. The infant looks towards the sound source.

If the infant *doesn’t startle* to loud noises or *look towards the sound*, have his/her hearing checked.

SUGGESTIONS:

- Use various objects that make sounds (e.g. rattles, music box, squeaky toys)
- Start talking to your baby while directly facing him/her, and then gradually move to the side. Ensure that your infant follows you with his/her eyes.
- Move a rattle around your baby. If he/she looks at it, give it to him/her.

