

Language Development

Your baby first “talks” to you by crying. They then learn to make sounds and smile. Eventually they’ll start to use words.

1st month

- responds when you talk
- “talks” by smiling, gazing and crying
- grunts when waking or hungry
- uses different cries for different needs

2nd month

- discovers their voice – gurgles, coos and squeals

3rd month

- makes long vowel sounds (“ah”)

4th month

- babbles (“ba-ba”)
- squeals
- tries to copy the sounds you make

5th month

- turns head towards a person speaking

6th month

- makes longer and more varied sounds
- tries out different volumes and pitches
- makes sputtering sounds with their lips and tongue
- “talks” to toys



SEEK CARE

Are you concerned about your baby’s development? Remember – every child is unique. But talk with your health care provider if your baby:

- has a very stiff or floppy body
- doesn’t watch faces by 2 to 3 months
- is unusually quiet and still or can never settle
- doesn’t react to loud noise
- holds their hands in tight fists
- doesn’t follow activities with their eyes
- doesn’t recognize you
- doesn’t make sounds
- has a lot of trouble feeding



KEY TAKEAWAY

Talk to your baby all the time and respond whenever they communicate with you.



DID YOU KNOW?

You can talk to your baby in whatever language you feel most comfortable. In fact, your baby can learn more than one language without getting confused.



BRAIN BUILDER

- Read, tell stories and sing to your baby.
- When you’re bathing or diapering them, chat with them about what you’re doing.
- Try to let them see your face when you’re talking.
- Repeat and respond to their coos and babbles.