

What should my child be able to do?

Hearing and Understanding	Talking
<p style="text-align: center;">Birth–3 Months</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Startles to loud sounds ● Quiets or smiles when spoken to ● Seems to recognize your voice and quiets if crying ● Increases or decreases sucking behavior in response to sound 	<p style="text-align: center;">Birth–3 Months</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Makes pleasure sounds (cooing, gooing) ● Cries differently for different needs ● Smiles when sees you
<p style="text-align: center;">4–6 Months</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Moves eyes in direction of sounds ● Responds to changes in tone of your voice ● Notices toys that make sounds ● Pays attention to music 	<p style="text-align: center;">4–6 Months</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Babbling sounds more speech-like with many different sounds, including <i>p</i>, <i>b</i> and <i>m</i> ● Chuckles and laughs ● Vocalizes excitement and displeasure ● Makes gurgling sounds when left alone and when playing with you
<p style="text-align: center;">7 Months–1 Year</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Enjoys games like peek-a-boo and pat-a-cake ● Turns and looks in direction of sounds ● Listens when spoken to ● Recognizes words for common items like "cup", "shoe", "book", or "juice" 	<p style="text-align: center;">7 Months–1 Year</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Babbling has both long and short groups of sounds such as "tata upup bibibibi" ● Uses speech or noncrying sounds to get and keep attention ● Uses gestures to communicate (waving, holding arms to be picked up) ● Imitates different speech sounds

- Begins to respond to requests (e.g. "Come here" or "Want more?")

- Has one or two words (hi, dog, dada, mama) around first birthday, although sounds may not be clear

What can I do to help?

- Check your child's ability to hear, and pay attention to [ear problems and infections](#), especially when they keep occurring.
- Reinforce your baby's communication attempts by looking at him or her, speaking, and imitating his or her vocalizations.
- Repeat his or her laughter and facial expressions.
- Teach your baby to imitate actions, such as peekaboo, clapping, blowing kisses, pat-a-cake, itsy bitsy spider, and waving bye-bye. These games teach turn taking that is needed for conversation.
- Talk while you are doing things, such as dressing, bathing, and feeding (e.g., "Mommy is washing Sam's hair"; "Sam is eating carrots"; "Oh, these carrots are good!").
- Talk about where you are going, what you will do once you get there, and who and what you'll see (e.g., "Sam is going to Grandma's house. Grandma has a dog. Sam will pet the dog.").
- Teach animal sounds (e.g., "A cow says 'moo'").
- Communicate with your child in the language you are most comfortable using.