

# Baby's Speech and Language Development

## Birth to 4 Months

---

Babies may blink, widen their eyes, or wake up if sleeping when they hear a loud handclap. Babies smile when you talk to them.

Yes No

Does baby startle to loud sounds?

Does baby quieten to mother's voice?

Babies laugh and giggle without being touched. Babies begin to coo (make noises like "ooow" and "aahh").

Yes No

Does baby smile or coo when you talk to her?

## 4 to 9 Months

---

Babies will turn their heads toward interesting sounds or when their names are called. They will awaken from a loud sound.

Yes No

Does baby turn head toward familiar sounds?

Babies will imitate you if you make their sounds. Babies say "mama" and "dada". They will wave bye-bye if you tell them to.

Yes No

Does baby makes noises to himself?

Does baby understand words like "bye-bye" and "up" when used with a hand motion?

## 9 to 15 Months

---

Babies very easily turn their heads in any direction to locate interesting sounds. They enjoy music and may try to dance.

Yes No

Does baby respond to her own name even when spoken quietly?

Babies will make noises to themselves when alone. They begin to make sounds like "ba ba ba" or "da da da".

Yes No

Does baby use his voice to get your attention?

Does baby say "mama" or "dada"?

Does baby jabber and act like he is talking to you even though you may not understand him?

## 15 to 24 Months

---

Children continue to locate sounds by turning their heads. They enjoy music and may try to dance.

Yes No

Does the child point to familiar pictures and objects when asked?

Does the child follow simple commands?

Does the child point to body parts when asked?

By 20 months, children have a 20 to 40 word vocabulary. By 24 months, children begin to use two to three word phrases.

Yes No

Does the child use single words and point to tell you what she wants?

Does the child imitate words that you say?

Does the child name several common objects like "ball" and "shoe"?

Does the child begin to put two or three words together like "Daddy bye-bye"?

Can unfamiliar people understand your child most of the time?

If you answered no to any of the questions in your child's age range or have any questions about your child's hearing or language behavior, please talk to your pediatrician