



I'm 6 months old and getting very noisy!

Early Years Speech, Language and Communication Development



Your baby should be starting to:

- watch people's faces when they talk
- show excitement at the sound of approaching voices maybe by kicking or waving arms or making noises
- turn to your voice across the room or to very quiet noise on either side if not distracted
- make noises to get attention
- make sounds when people speak to them, almost as if they are talking back
- laugh and babble to themselves
- cry in different ways to express different needs, such as hunger, fear or feeling fed up; and
- recognise different emotions in your voice and respond differently; for example laugh, smile, quieten.

*From the ICAN Stages of Speech
and Language Development*

No matter how old I am – one of the best ways to help my speech and language development is to have some quiet time with me so we can talk, sing songs or look at books.

It is always best to make sure that the TV and music are switched off when we play.

Helpful hints for 6-12 months

To help my brain develop talk to me clearly in short sentences about what we are doing and where we are going. Don't forget to use my name.

Let me know that what I say is important to you. You can do this by listening and responding when I babble or gesture.

I am never too young to enjoy books. I like looking at the pictures with you.



Play repetitive games, so I can learn what happens next. Bouncing and peek-a-boo are really good fun.

Get face to face and down to my level. You can really look at me and I can look at you.

Let me take turns 'talking'. If I babble, copy my sounds and we can have a chat.

Look to see what I'm interested in. Wait for me to 'talk to you', for example, I might babble or make an interested sound.

Talk to me in whichever language feels comfortable for you.

Please remember that all children develop speech and language at different times and different speeds, so it can be perfectly ok for your child not to be showing all the behaviours in this leaflet.

If you have any questions or any concerns about your child's speech, language or communication, please contact your Health Visitor.

This leaflet has been developed in partnership between Sure Start Children's Centres and the Children's Integrated Therapy and Equipment Service, with thanks to the Parents' Forum.

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