



Speech-Language Development Birth to One Year

Birth-3 Months

- 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
- Makes pleasure sounds (cooing, gooing)

4-6 Months

- Moves eyes in direction of sounds
- Notices toys that make sounds
- Babbling sounds more speech-like with many different sounds, including p, b & m
- Vocalizes excitement and displeasure
- Makes gurgling sounds when left alone and when playing with you

7 Months-1 Year

- Turns and looks in direction of sounds
- Listens when spoken to
- Recognizes words for common items like "cup", "shoe," or "juice"
- Begins to respond to requests (e.g. "Come here" or "Want more?")
- Babbling has both long and short groups of sounds such as "tata upup bibibibi"
- Imitates different speech sounds and environmental noises
- Has one or two words (bye-bye, dada, mama), although they may not be clear

What can I do to help?

- Have your child's hearing evaluated annually.
- Reinforce communication by looking at them, speaking and imitating vocalizations.
- Teach your baby to imitate actions, such as clapping or blowing kisses.
- Talk about where you are going, what you will do and who or what you'll see.
- Talk about colors (e.g., "Sam's hat is red").
- Practice counting. Count toes and fingers.
- Count steps as you go up and down them.
- Teach animal sounds (e.g., "A cow says 'moo'").

**For more information call 614.263.5151 or visit
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