

Communicators: 6-12 months

Social Interaction

- Shows affection towards familiar people.
- Holds objects for adult to take.
- Uses voice to get adult attention.
- Enjoys peek-a-boo/pat-a-cake.
- Lifts arms out to be picked up.
- Screams when annoyed.

HOW CAN I HELP?:

Name the things you think baby is trying to tell you about or is pointing out to you, and just repeat the words back to them.

WHAT NEXT?:

Talk to baby about the objects they are interested in

Talking/Expressive Language

- Moves from reflexive to intentional communication.
- By 12 months: Uses actions and sounds to get something they want e.g. looks at a drink and says "uh uh".
- Shakes head for 'no'.
- May say a couple of words by 12 months.
- Beginning to point to objects.
- Jargon strings and sounds that mean words.

HOW CAN I HELP?:

Talk to little ones! Use gestures, repeat words and make sure baby can see your face.

WHAT NEXT?:

Tune into baby's interests e.g. if they point at a teddy, say "yes, it's teddy!"

Listening and Understanding

- Turns head to different sounds.
- Responds to own name
- Situational understanding - understands situations but not always words.
- 9-12 months: Understands some simple words e.g. 'daddy', 'no'. Looks/reaches for familiar object when adult says the name of it.
- Waves when hears "bye-bye".
- Pays attention to nursery rhymes.
- Fleeting attention. New events/things are distracting.

HOW CAN I HELP?:

Use gestures when talking to give baby a visual cue.

WHAT NEXT?:

Start by giving baby instructions with one simple step e.g. "find teddy", and keep going!

Speech Sounds

- Babbles with different sounds e.g. "bababa", "gadaba"

HOW CAN I HELP?:

To encourage babbling, when baby vocalises or makes noises, repeat them back to them. Create a pretend conversation - this encourages awareness that their voice has meaning.

WHAT NEXT?:

Add to their babbling - use different sounds and intonation. Interpret some of their babble as words.

Have some quiet time in the house so baby has time to hear your voice without background noise. This will really help with later speech development.

Play and Social Development

- Develops object permanence around 8 months old. This means they know something is still there even though they can't see it anymore. This is important for language development.
- Plays games with a shared focus.
- Has good eye contact.

HOW CAN I HELP?:

When baby is playing, copy what they are doing. Wait to see if they take a turn, copy again, wait and continue. Play fun, simple shared games like peekaboo. These really help

WHAT NEXT?:

Sing lots of nursery rhymes and encourage your child to join in.



Want some more ideas and activities to support baby's communication? Take a look at our resources on Halton's Communication Hub

