

Early Communication Skills in Infants

WHAT SHOULD MY CHILD BE ABLE TO DO FROM BIRTH TO 1 YEAR?



HEARING & UNDERSTANDING

Birth–3 Months

- Startles at loud sounds
- Quiets or smiles you talk
- Seems to recognize your voice.
Quiets if crying

4–6 Months

- Moves their eyes in the direction of sounds
- Responds to change in your tone of voice
- Notices toys that make sounds
- Pays attention to music

7 Months–1 Year

- Turns and looks in the direction of sounds
- Looks when you point
- Turns when you call their name
- Understands words for common items and people– words like cup, truck, juice, and daddy
- Starts to respond to simple words and phrases, like "No," "Come here," and "Want more?"
- Plays games with you, like peek-a-boo and pat-a-cake
- Listens to songs and stories for a short time

TALKING

Birth–3 Months

- Makes cooing sounds
- Cries change for different needs
- Smiles at people

4–6 Months

- Coos and babbles when playing alone with you
- Makes speech-like babbling sounds like pa, ba, and mi
- Giggles and laughs
- Makes sounds when happy or upset

7 Months–1 Year

- Babbles long strings of sounds, like mimi, upup, and babababa
- Uses sounds and gestures to get and keep attention
- Points to objects and shows them to others
- Uses gestures like waving bye, reaching for "up," and shaking head no
- Imitates different speech sounds
- Says 1 or 2 words, like hi, dog, dada, mama, or uh-oh. This will happen around their first birthday, but sounds may not be clear