

Blossoming Babies Check List for Language Development

Birth to 3 Months

Understanding and Hearing

- Listens to speech.
- Awakens at loud sound.
- Turns to you when you speak.
- Smiles when spoken to.
- Stops activity to pay attention to an unfamiliar voice.

Talking

- Repeats the same sound a lot (cooing, gooing).
- Cries differently for different needs.
- Smiles when he/she sees you.

3 to 6 Months

Understanding and Hearing

- Responds to "No" and changes in tone of voice.
- Looks around for the source of new sounds, e.g., vacuum, doorbell, dog.
- Notices toys that make sounds.
- Pays attention to music.
- Stops activity to pay attention to an unfamiliar voice.

Talking

- Makes babbling sounds that are speech-like, including "p", "b" and "m."
- Makes gurgling sounds when left alone and when playing with you.
- Tells you by sound or gesture when he/she wants you to do something.

6 to 9 Months

Understanding and Hearing

- Enjoys games like peek-a-boo and pat-a-cake.
- Listens when spoken to.
- Turns and looks up when you call his/her name.

Talking

- Babbling has both long and short groups of sounds such as "tata upup bibibibi."
- Uses speech or non-crying sounds to get attention.

9 to 12 Months

Understanding and Hearing

- Recognizes words for common items like "cup," "shoe," "juice."
- Begins to respond to requests ("Come here," "Want more?").

Talking

- Imitates different speech sounds.
- Has one or two words ("Bye-bye," "Dada," "Mama," "No").

12 to 18 Months

Understanding and Hearing

- Points to pictures in a book when named.
- Points to a few body parts when asked.
- Follows simple commands ("Sit down," "Let go").

Talking

- Says more words every month.
- Uses some one- or two-word questions ("Where kitty?" "Go bye-bye?").

18 to 24 Months

Understanding and Hearing

- Follows simple commands ("Roll the ball," "Kiss the Baby").
- Understands simple questions ("Where is your shoe?").
- Listens more carefully to simple stories and songs and rhymes.

Talking

- Puts two words together ("More cookie," "No juice").
- Uses many different consonant sounds at the beginning of words.
- Asks for items by name (doll, ball, cookie etc...).