

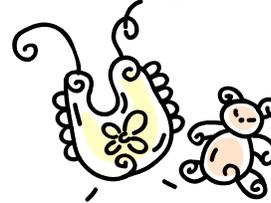
Helping Kids Discover and Develop Language

9 Months

1. The infant babbles and repeats sounds.

The infant may say “mamama”, “nuhnuh”, “tuhtuhtuh”, “dadada”, and/or “papapa”.

SUGGESTION: Imitate your child’s sounds. Babies love to hear their caregivers copy their sounds. This imitation is important for speech development.



2. The infant understands being told “no”.

The infant stops an activity when caregiver says “No!” (e.g. when playing with or touching a dangerous object)

SUGGESTION: Use a negative intonation, say “No” and stop him/her from what he/she is doing

3. The infant responds with gestures to another person’s gestures and accompanying words.

For example, when the caregiver reaches towards the infant and says “up”, the infant puts his/her arms in the air; or when the caregiver waves while saying “bye bye”, the infant will wave back.

SUGGESTIONS:

- Frequently use gestures at appropriate times (e.g. nod your head when saying ‘yes’, blow kisses)
- Show your infant how to produce these gestures by taking his/her hand and showing them.

4. The infant looks at some common objects when they are named.

The infant may recognize such words as “ball”, “bottle”, and “cookie”

SUGGESTIONS:

- Hold the object in front of your infant and name it before giving it to them
- Name objects your infant shows interest in
- Always use the same name for the same object (e.g. only use “buggy” for baby carriage, instead of switching “buggy” to “carriage” to “pram”)
- Use simple names (e.g. use “car” instead of “automobile”)
- Use specific names for toys (e.g. use “fluffy” for the infant’s stuffed rabbit)
- Repeat the same word over and over again. Don’t worry about using it too much because this is how children learn best (e.g. “oh truck, nice truck, big truck”).

5. The infant recognizes family member's names and responds to his or her own name.

The infant looks or turns his/her head in the direction of the person named (e.g. the child turns to look at daddy when asked "where's daddy?") The infant may show excitement when they hear the name of a familiar person.

SUGGESTIONS:

- Use the names of family members when they are in the same room as your infant
- Point to family members when saying their names
- During activities constantly use the names of family members (e.g. "Daddy rolls ball")

6. The child plays speech-gesture or social games.

For example, the child tries to involve the caregiver in "peek-a-boo" or "patty-cake"

SUGGESTIONS:

- Follow your child's lead with games
- Choose one or two speech games (e.g. Itsy-bitsy spider, Peek-a-boo, This Little Piggy) that you can play over and over so that your child becomes very familiar with them. This will increase the likelihood that he/she will initiate play.