

Ages and Stages

All babies cry



Within a few weeks, babies develop differentiated crying
Different pitch and duration of cry signals different states
(such as pain, discomfort, hunger, fussiness, boredom)

When talked to/signed to, baby smiles, squeals, coos

2-3 months

All babies make burbling sounds and squeals and grunts
signaling pleasure, contentment

2-3 months

All babies coo (open vowel sounds and simple murmurs)

3 months



Babbling emerges

4-5 months

Being responsive to baby's babbling may encourage
the baby to vocalize in order to gain attention

Vocal babbling may fade if baby is deaf

Manual babbling likely with babies who are stimulated by Sign Language

Enjoys communicative-interactive games

5-6 months

Baby rewards games and sustains repetition of games
through wiggling, smiling, laughing



Babies recognize warning gesture & firm "No" (signed/spoken)

5-6 months

Engages in and enjoys imitative games

6-8 months

Clapping rhythms, repetitive vocal games, making faces

Shows recognition/knows own name

6-8 months

Recognizes the word/sign "No No" and indicates understanding by ceasing activity that provoked the admonition
Shakes head to indicate "No" 8 months

May turn in recognition of environmental sounds (vacuum, telephone ringing, garage door opening/closing) 8 months

Pointing deliberately 10 months
Waves "bye bye"
Understands and obeys request/command "Give it to me"

First spontaneous, expressive use of words/signs 11-12 months
Mostly labels initially, then comments on ordinary activities



Baby can make caregivers understand that s/he wants something and what it is

Simple combinations & phrases 18-24 months

Discrete vocabulary of approximately 50 words/signs by 18 months



Vocabulary rapidly increases after that to approx. 200 by 24 months

Once toddlers begin combining vocabulary, they start adding phrases to their language production. Toddlers are able to use the power of language not only to name or label people and things, but for a myriad of purposes including to play, comment, question, consider, negotiate, protest, anticipate, control, reject, affirm, joke, request, & engage.

