

Speech and Language Milestones

6 to 12 Months



From 6 to 9 months, your baby:

- understands his/her name
- understands simple words like “up”, “no”
- makes different sounds like “ba-ba”, “na-na”
- may say sounds that sound like words (“mama”), without knowing the meaning yet
- uses a voice that rises and falls
- understands different faces (mad, happy)
- might cry when you leave the room
- starts to imitate familiar sounds and actions
- tries to play “pat-a-cake” and “bye-bye”
- starts to look at pictures in books
- likes to do things with objects such as shaking, banging

From 9 to 12 months, your baby:

- looks toward a sound or voice right away
- starts to know names of objects and body parts (examples - blanket, nose, toes)
- starts to point to an object when you ask where it is (like - where’s your nose?)
- points and makes a noise to ask for something
- may start to use a few simple words
- waves “bye”
- shakes his/her head to say “no”
- imitates simple sounds
- does things to see how other people will react (like putting a blanket over his face)
- likes people he/she knows - may move away from an unfamiliar person
- tugs at you or holds up his/her arms to be picked up

**DON'T WAIT - EARLY HELP
MAKES A DIFFERENCE!**

Call 519-272-8216 or 1-866-333-7716
and ask for **smallTALK**

Visit our web site at www.smalltalkinfo.ca

Services provided by smallTALK are funded
by the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care
and the Ministry of Children and Youth Services.

How you can help your baby's speech and language grow:

- use gestures when you talk to your baby (wave “hi”, point “up”)
- show your child how to make gestures by moving his/her hand
- get excited when your child starts to point to things - say the name of the objects and let your child hold them if possible
- use simple words to talk about what you are doing
- speak in short sentences
- be consistent in the words you use to label objects
- play sound games - say words or sounds back and forth for as long as your child is interested
- play simple games like “peek-a-boo” and “pat-a-cake”
- tell your child to listen to the different sounds you hear (rain falling, phone ringing)
- sing songs or nursery rhymes

Adapted with permission from material developed by First Words Preschool Speech and Language Program of Ottawa-Carleton led by Pinecrest-Queensway Health and Community Services.

**Parents, trust your instincts
and call us if you ...**

- have questions or concerns about the way your child’s speech and language skills are developing
- want to refer your child for a speech and language assessment
- want more information on other topics related to speech and language development

