



EARLY LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT – 0 to 12 months

The following skills are listed in order of development:

Receptively the child will:

1. Respond to voice and sounds (0 to 3 months)
2. Search with eyes for sound
3. Watch speaker's eyes & mouth
4. Begin to play with rattle (3 to 6 months)
5. Use hands and mouth for sensory exploration of objects
6. Find partially hidden object
7. Localize sounds with eyes
8. Play 2 to 3 minutes with single toy (6 to 9 months)
9. Respond to facial expressions
10. Listen selectively to familiar words
11. Understand words & phrases (no-no, peek-a-boo, patty cake, bye-bye, shakes head "yes" or "no") (9 to 12 months)
12. Respond to simple directions (come here, open your mouth)
13. Enjoy looking at picture books
14. Imitate gesture/move to rhythm

Expressively the child will:

1. Cry when hungry (0 to 3 months)
2. Make sucking sounds
3. Vary their cry in pitch, length, and volume to indicate needs
4. Coo vowel sounds (ahh, ee)
5. Laugh out loud
6. Babble, may use 2 syllables (3 to 6 months)
7. Look and vocalize to their own name
8. Say "dada" or "mama" nonspecifically (6 to 9 months)
9. Shout for attention
10. Produce these sounds: b, m, p, d, t, n
11. Babble with inflection similar to adult speech (9 to 12 months)
12. Repeat sounds/gestures if laughed at
13. Imitate other sounds (cough, tongue clicks)
14. Imitate heavily during this time.

Socially the child will:

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| 1. Smile reflexively (0 to 3 months) | 9. Play peek-a-boo (6 to 9 months) |
| 2. Mold and relaxes body when held | 10. Wave or respond to bye-bye |
| 3. Recognize mother (3 to 6 months) | 11. Show anxiety over separation from mother |
| 4. Vocalize in response to adult talk and smiles | 12. Engage in imitative play |
| 5. Lift arms to mother | 13. Extend toys to show, not for release |
| 6. Enjoy social play | 14. Verbally or non-verbally request objects |
| 7. Discriminate strangers | |
| 8. May be comforted by a soft blanket | |