

Speech, Language and Listening Development (0-6 months)

0-6 Months

The following is a rough guide to listening and language development. It is designed to provide you with information as well as practical tips to help your child's development. Please be aware that children develop at different rates depending on factors such as their hearing level and temperament. The most important focus should be that your child is making progress, rather than which stage he or she is at. If you have any concerns, please contact your hearing care professional for further advice.

Hearing and Listening

Can identify the presence of sounds including:

- environmental sounds (e.g. telephone, doorbell, dog barking).
- speech sounds including: ee (feet), -o- (hot), oo (shoe), s, sh, m.

How can you help develop your child's hearing and listening?

- Use your voice while communicating.
- Talk to your child during everyday activities (e.g. getting out of bed, getting dressed).
- Point out sounds in the environment and show your child the source of the sound.
- Play cooing games ("ahh", "ooo") and wait to see if your child will try to repeat the sound.

Speech and Language Development

Babbles ("ba ba", "la la", "da da"), coos, cries for needs.

How can you help develop your child's speech and language?

- Answer your child's cooing and babbling by making the same sounds back to him/her. Wait to see if he/she tries to say it again.
- Answer your child's cries by giving him/her what he/she needs (e.g. a cuddle, food).
- Talk about what you are doing ('You're hungry! Mommy will give you some milk').
- See if your child will imitate you when you vocalize, stick your tongue out, clap, shake a rattle, etc.
- Talk to your child while you hold and cuddle.
- Sing nursery rhymes to your child.

References and further resources

- www.babyhearing.org
- Cole, E.B. (1992) Listening and talking. Washington D C: A G Bell Assoc. for the Deaf
- Mississippi Bend Area Education Agency: www.aea9.k12.ia.us