

Language Skill Builder

BABY'S NAME:

Here are some activities to help build your baby's language skills*

Each baby develops language at his or her own pace. But, there are general activities that can begin around your baby's corrected age of 4 months and will continue throughout baby's first year.

DATE	ACTIVITY	NOTES
	 <p>Talk, and more talk</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conversation lays the groundwork for verbal development • Provide simple descriptions of what your baby sees, hears, and smells 	<p>Today, I talked about:</p> <p>and my baby's reaction was:</p> <p>.....</p> <p>.....</p>
	 <p>Read like crazy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read aloud to promote speech and encourage imitations • Use facial expressions, silly sound effects, and character voices 	<p>Today, I read:</p> <p>and my baby liked it this much:</p> 
	 <p>Motivate to imitate</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Your baby has been imitating you from the start; begin repeating her sounds back to her • Encourage her to respond and imitate you, and react positively when she does 	<p>Today, my baby imitated:</p> <p>.....</p> <p>.....</p> <p>.....</p>
	 <p>Point and share</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At about 9 months, ask your baby questions such as "Where's Mama?" or "What's that?" Stimulate with finger pointing • Ask your baby to find a person or object you've named (such as a toy, or bottle) 	<p>Today, my baby found his/her:</p> <p>.....</p> <p><i>object or body part</i></p> <p>.....</p> <p>when I asked him/her to.</p>

* Every baby develops differently. If you have concerns about your baby's growth, speak with your baby's healthcare provider.

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	<p>Baby babble</p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Respond to your baby's nonsense syllables while engaging in silly conversations Allow her time to talk, and respond to what she says as if talking to a dear friend—ask questions, talk about your day, etc. 	<p>We had a good conversation today. It was about:</p> <p>.....</p> <p>.....</p> <p>.....</p> 
	<p>Every word counts</p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Counting objects with your baby provides repetition that leads to imitation Count baby's fingers or toes out loud energetically; fill and empty baskets with toys as you encourage your little one to acknowledge and/or repeat each item by number 	<p>My baby repeated her first number today. It was:</p> <p>.....</p> <p>.....</p> <p>.....</p> 
	<p>Tune in</p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pair up a childhood song such as "Itsy Bitsy Spider" with simple hand movements to help your baby learn the rhythm of language Guide your baby's hands as she watches you sing; later, leave a word out of the song and let her try to fill in the blank 	<p>Our favorite baby song right now is:</p> <p>.....</p> <p>My baby's favorite part is:</p> <p>.....</p> <p>.....</p>
	<p>Shhhhh...</p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Periodically eliminate the sounds of the television, radio, or computer Illogical as it seems, this can build your baby's language skills by giving her time to practice without distraction 	<p>During my baby's quiet time today, I eliminated:</p> <p>.....</p> <p>and he/she was practicing:</p> <p>.....</p> <p>.....</p>

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