

Babies are born with a desire to communicate. From coos to cries, they are eager to connect. The more we respond, the more we bond and continue building on their foundational skills.

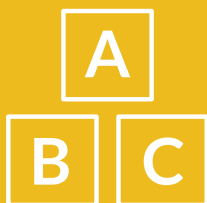
How Babies Communicate

Birth – 3 months



- Reacts to loud sounds
- Coos and makes pleasure sounds
- Stops or starts sucking in response to sound
- Makes eye contact and looks at things in field of view
- Recognizes familiar voices and smiles or calms down when spoken to

4 – 6 months



- Follows sounds with eyes
- Reaches for things and people
- Vocalizes excitement and displeasure
- Looks towards caregiver when name is called
- Babbles in a speech-like way and uses many different sounds

7 months – 1 year



- Uses simple gestures
- Babbles using groups of sounds
- Turns to look towards direction of sounds
- Enjoys games like peek-a-boo and pat-a-cake
- Begins to respond to requests and simple directions

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By talking with, listening to, singing with and playing with your child, you are forming the deep, loving connections that help to build their language skills – and build their brain for reading and all learning.

How Young Children Communicate

1 – 2 years old



- Saying more words every month
- Using some 1 – 2-word questions (“where’s kitty?” “go bye-bye?” “what’s that?”)
- Using many different consonant sounds at the beginning of words
- Putting 2 words together (e.g., “more cookie,” “no juice,” “mommy book”)

3 – 4 years old



- Talking about activities at school or at friends’ homes
- Usually talking easily without repeating syllables or words
- Using a lot of sentences that have 4 or more words

2 – 3 years old



- Having a word for almost everything
- Using 2-3 words to talk about and ask for things
- Often asking for or directing attention to objects by naming them

4 – 5 years old



- Using sentences that give lots of details (e.g., “I like to read my books.”)
- Communicating easily with other children and adults
- Using the same grammar as the rest of the family
- Telling stories that stay on topic



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