

Helping Kids Discover and Develop Language

7-9 MONTHS

1. The infant babbles a series of sounds.

The infant may say: "mamama", "nuhnuh", "tuhtuhtuh", "dadada" and/or "papapa".

SUGGESTION:

- imitate your child's sounds. Babies love to hear their caregivers copy their sounds. This imitation is important for speech development.



2. The infant understands "no".

The infant stops an activity (e.g., playing with an object or touching a dangerous object) when the caregiver says "No!".

SUGGESTION:

- use a negative intonation, say "No" and stop him/her from what he/she is doing

3. The infant responds with gestures to another person's gestures and accompanying words.

For example, when the caregiver reaches towards the infant and says "up", the infant puts his/her arms in the air; or when the caregiver waves while saying "bye bye", the infant waves back.

SUGGESTIONS:

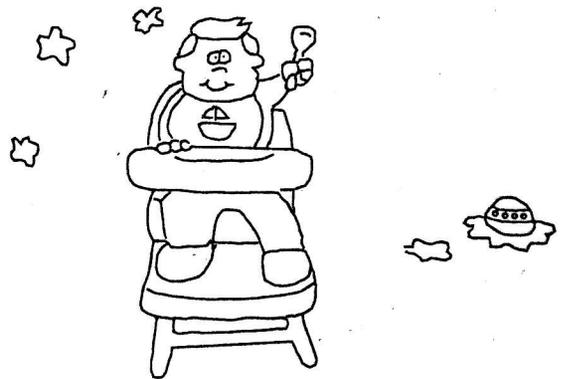
- frequently use gestures at appropriate times
- show your infant how to produce these gestures by taking his/her hand and doing it for him/her

4. The infant looks at some common objects when they are named.

The infant may recognize such words as: "ball", "bottle", and "cookie".

SUGGESTIONS:

- hold the object in front of your infant and name it before giving to him/her
- name objects your infant shows interest in
- always use the same name for the same object all of the time (e.g., only use "buggy" for "baby carriage", instead of "buggy", "carriage", "pram".)
- use simple names (e.g., use "car" instead of "automobile")
- use specific names for toys (e.g., say "Fluffy" for the infant's stuffed rabbit)
- repeat the same word over and over again. Don't worry about using it too much because this is how children learn best (e.g., "Oh truck, nice truck, big truck")



5. The infant recognizes family members' names.

The infant looks or turns his/her head in the direction of the person named when that person is present. The infant may show excitement when he/she hears the name of a familiar person.

SUGGESTIONS:

- use the names of family members when they are in the same room as your infant
- point to family members when saying their names
- during activities, constantly use the names of family members (e.g., "Daddy rolls ball")