

Babies Learn at an Amazing Rate



How can a parent know what is typical?

Here's what's happening as children develop gestures, sounds, and words to communicate...



9 months

- smile and laugh while looking at you
- turn to sounds they hear
- reach for things they want
- use their voice to get help and attention



18 months

- use at least 10 words
- make more than 5 different consonant sounds, like /m/, /n/, /b/, /d/, and /g/
- imitate words you say
- identify several body parts when named
- play by pretending to feed dolls or stuffed animals

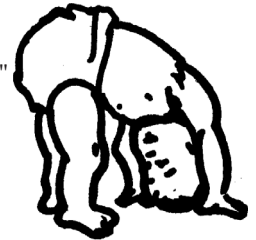
12 months

- respond to their name
- understand simple directions with gestures
- use gestures like giving, showing, and pointing
- use sounds and maybe a few words
- play social games like peek-a-boo
- let you know what they want and don't want
- show you things that interest them



21 months

- use at least 25 words
- learn a few new words each week
- combine words together like, "want bottle," and "go bye-bye"
- identify several objects when named
- put actions together during play like scooping and feeding a doll



15 months

- use lots of gestures and sounds
- use some words to communicate, like "mama," "dada," "bottle," "bye-bye," and "uh-oh"
- understand familiar words and phrases like, "Where's mama?" and "Get your bottle."
- play with a variety of toys like blocks, cars, books, stuffed animals, and dolls



24 months

- use at least 50 words
- make simple sentences like, "Mommy go outside," and "What's that?"
- put many actions together during play like stirring, pouring, scooping, and feeding a doll
- recognize pictures in books and listen to simple stories