



## Birth to 6 month

### From birth to 1 month

- Babies can recognise and turn their head towards their parent's voice.
- Makes pre-speech lip and tongue movements in response to talk.
- Demonstrates a strong preference for human faces.
- Spend time together face-to-face – see if baby can copy your tongue sticking out, blink your eyes, make lip sounds.
- Talk to your baby about anything and everything in a gentle, even voice when your baby is awake and try to make eye contact.
- Feeding and cleaning provide particularly good opportunities to start a 'conversation'

### 1 - 4 months

- Vocalises delightedly in response to chat or enjoyable play
- Recognises the difference between happy and sad faces and can copy simple facial movements.
- Responds to positive touch and can see, hear and smell.
- Can discern whether a person's gaze is towards/away from them or if people are behaving in a socially contingent way.
- Talk to them in an animated, tuneful voice with lots of smiles, laughter and facial expressions.
- Respond to baby's movements and communication – copy the noises they make.
- Interpret their sounds and say what they are trying to tell you.
- Sing songs and rhymes with actions or lots of repetition.
- Play with your baby following predictable routines, but also contain an element of surprise. 'Body' or 'lap' games that include tickling or tactile stimulation, such as 'peekaboo' or 'round and round the garden'

### 4-6 months

- Babies can recognise own name.
- Expresses a range of emotions such as pleasure, fear and excitement through facial expressions, vocalisations and body language.
- Begins to engage in babbling that replicates the pitch and tone of adult speech.
- Shows clear like, dislike, acceptance and rejection of experiences.
- Can track the gaze of others and share attention towards an object, such as a household item or a toy.
- Continue to do the above, and chat with your baby (without distraction), look at them.
- Respond to infant babbling as if they are initiating a conversation.
- Describe your baby's emotions as you speak to them.
- Use daily activities as an opportunity to stimulate your baby's learning (e.g. go outside and smell a flower).

(taken from 'Improving the Home Learning Environment' DfE 2018)