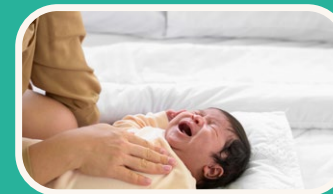




Language Development



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Stages of Language Development

Try these at any age to build your child's skills



Sucking and crying happens as a reflex. Baby shows interest in adults.

- Get face-to-face with your baby
- Listen to your baby

Talk back to your baby!



Baby starts to communicate intentionally with cooing and babbling. Babbling starts to sound like real words. They enjoy interacting with you. They're starting to understand non-verbal cues like gesture, tone of voice and body language.

- Sing songs and waiata to your baby
- Play repetitive games like peek-a-boo
- Turn off the T.V. to reduce background noise

Talk to your baby when doing things together e.g., bath time, walking, playing



Single words are mixed in with babble. Your child is starting to understand names of people, common objects and actions in their world. They learn that their sounds and actions have an impact on others. They seem to understand what you're saying, but take a lot of cues from what's happening around them.

- Listen to your child, then put into words what you think they're trying to say with their babble and sounds
- Describe what your child is doing or interested in

Repeat what your child says - in the right way



Once a child has about 50 words, two-word sentences begin. This stage is very important. They begin to use "no/not". Made up words (jargon/babble) decrease as vocabulary grows. They can understand simple directions and questions.

- Use a variety of words like names, actions, describing words, locations, questions and feelings

Use your first language at home, all the time



Child starts using even longer sentences with correct grammar. They can hold a conversation. They can understand more complex questions like "why", "because" and simple jokes. Language is becoming a tool for thinking, learning and imagining. They use language to make friends and solve problems.

- Give reasons for why things happen
- Relate past experiences to what's happening
- Retell stories in order
- Predict what might happen in the future
- Talk about imaginary things and role play

Extend their language!