

6 – 12 MONTHS

As their motor skills develop from the age of 6 – 12 months, the ability of babies to explore the world around them increases.

- When they are able to sit up they see a different view of the world around them
- With improved control of their hands they can explore objects more thoroughly, tasting, feeling and looking at them more closely.

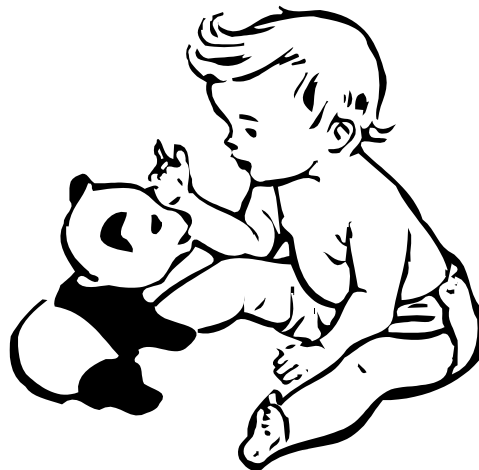
As you talk to your baby during this stage of their development they will gain language concepts that will later become part of their spoken vocabulary.

Although babies' language and speech mainly consist of babbling and crying, their speech sound system is developing and they are learning to

They are beginning to recognise:

- Names of family members.
- Names of family pets.
- Names of familiar objects in the home.

They will soon begin to imitate sounds and they will shortly say their first word towards the end of this age period. Before they say their first word they will practice imitating action words, such as **clapping** and **bye-bye**. The imitation of adult speech is good preparation for the imitation of "real words" and soon-to-be spontaneous use of them.



Activities

Bath Time



Bath time is a wonderful time to talk to your baby: it can be an enjoyable learning experience. You can name body parts as you wash their toes, feet and face.

Introduce words like: **wet dry cold warm soap and water**

Feeding Time



When your baby is in their highchair, name the foods you are giving them and the bowl, utensils and cup that is being used. You can also talk about the way the food tastes and feels.

Use words like: **warm cold crunchy and wet**

Picture Books

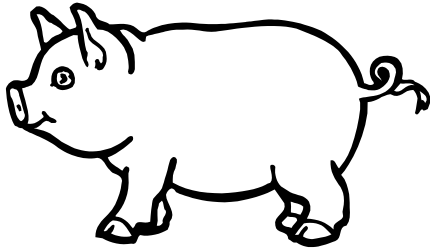


Now is a good time to introduce picture books. Use books that have hard pages or fabric like books. While you name the pictures hold baby's hand to help them point to the pictures. Start with books that have one large picture on a page these pictures should be clear and realistic.

As you "read" with your baby, they will gain understanding of new words as well as learn to enjoy books.

Activities

This Little Pig



The physical contact that goes with this nursery rhyme is especially enjoyable to babies. Wiggle your babies toes one at a time as you say:

This little pig went to market.

This little pig stayed at home.

This little pig had roast beef.

This little pig had none.

This little pig cried “Wee, wee, wee, wee!” all the way home.

Play ‘Pat-a-Cake’



Encourage your baby to clap their hands while saying:

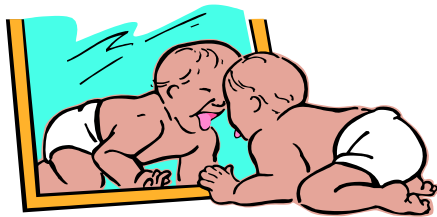
Pat-a-cake, pat-a-cake baker’s man.

Bake me a cake as fast as a you can.

Pat it and prick it and mark it with a “B”.

And put it in the oven for baby and me.

Mirror Play

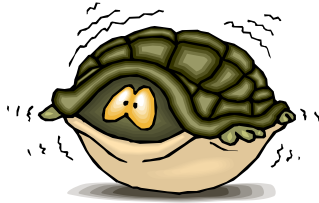


Babies love to see themselves in a mirror. Sit your baby in front of a mirror and say, “Who’s that? Who do I see?” Is that daddy and.....?”

Make silly faces in the mirror and see if your baby can imitate you.

Activities

Hide and Seek



Hide and seek is a game that your child will enjoy for years to come. Play a simplified version with your baby, which will help improve their listening skills.

Car Play



Use cars to improve your child's ability to imitate, this is an important skill, which will help language development. Give your baby a toy car and hold one yourself. Push the car around while making 'car sounds.' Encourage your baby to do the same.

Saying "Hello" and "Bye-bye"



Babies are very sociable. Help your baby learn an early social skill by teaching them to say **Hello** and **Bye-bye** Whenever you appear or go anywhere, say **Hello** or **Bye-bye** and wave your hand.

Read Nursery Rhymes



Babies enjoy hearing your voice, and nursery rhymes with their rhythm and repetition are especially fun to share. Choose a book of nursery rhymes with large colourful pictures or recite rhymes to your child.