

Talk with me - Communication tips for parents 6 to 12 months

COMMUNICATION TIPS

- Hold your baby close so that they can see your face and hear your voice and you can see their face.
- Talk to your baby, they are comforted by your voice. Repeat words frequently, name familiar objects such as 'teddy', actions such as 'drink', activities such as 'bath time' and people such as 'daddy'.
- Good talking times are nappy changing, bath times, getting dressed, going for a walk, feeding, in fact all the time.
- Encourage your baby to look at you while you are talking, this will help develop their listening skills.
- Copy sounds such as babbling and the faces your baby makes, wait for a pause in their sound making and then respond, this is early turn taking.
- Playing helps your baby to learn, play with rattles, tickling and 'peek a boo'.
- Watch to see what makes your baby smile and do more of this.
- Use your baby's name every time you talk to them.
- Read to your baby, let them see and feel the books as you read. Read books more than once. They love repetition and even if they can't understand the words they love to hear your voice.
- Let your child explore their environment so that they can learn how things look, feel, sound, smell and taste.

DID YOU KNOW?

Your child learns to be strong and independent from a base of loving and secure relationships with you, their parents.

For more information and tips about communicating with your child visit:

Surrey Family Information Service
www.surreycc.gov.uk/earlylearning
surrey.fis@surreycc.gov.uk
0300 200 1004

"what I like"

- When you hold me close so I can see your face and you make faces at me that I can copy. I like it when you play 'peek a boo' and sing to me.
- To explore new things and hold them in my hands. I like things that make a noise such as rattles, things that feel different, like squishy balls and things I can look at such as mobiles.

"what I can do"

- I can make sounds other than crying such as babbling 'ga ga' and 'da da'.
- I like to watch your face as you talk and copy the faces that you make.
- I smile back when you smile at me.
- I respond to my name.
- I listen and respond to voices, especially familiar ones.
- I am beginning to understand familiar words that are used frequently such as 'all gone', 'no' and 'more'.
- I am beginning to take turns with sounds.
- I can recognise familiar faces and objects.
- I am startled by loud noises.
- I am calmed by your gentle voice and singing.



I'm
trying out
my voice



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Talk with me - Communication tips for parents 12 to 18 months

COMMUNICATION TIPS

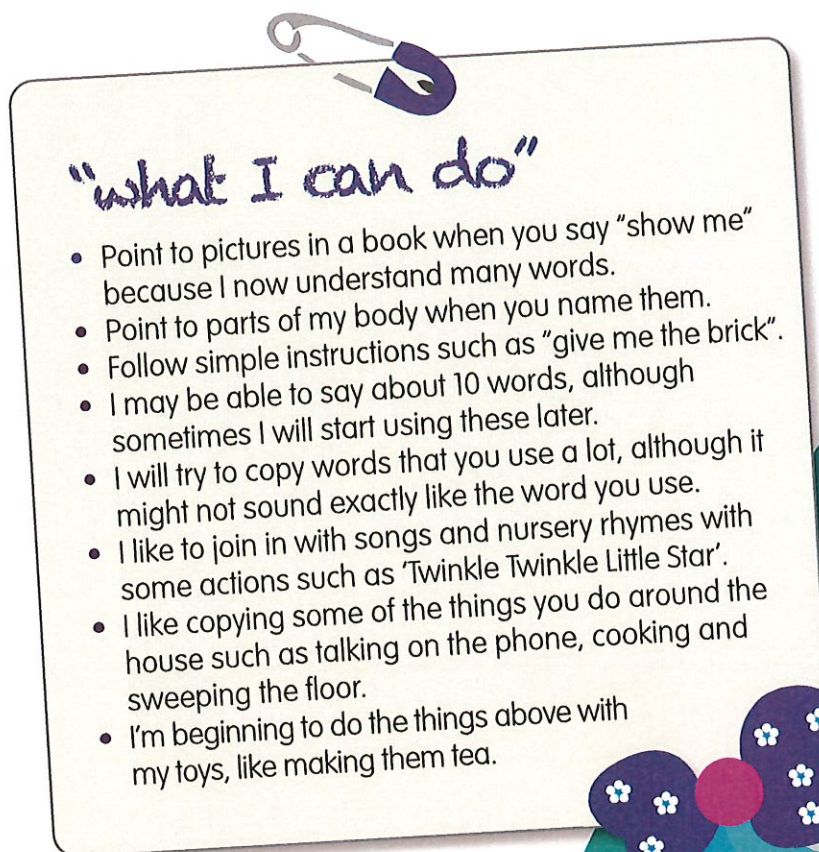
- Talk about what you are doing when doing jobs around the house such as cleaning and loading the washing machine.
- Play games such as 'Pat a cake', 'Round and round the garden' and 'Peek a boo'.
- Read books as often as you can. Point to things in the pictures. Respond to your child's interest in the pictures. Read favourite books over and over. Books with lots of repetition are good at this age.
- Sing nursery rhymes during bath time when you're out for a walk or playing in the garden.
- Respond to all attempts at communication. If your child points to something, name it.
- Play early turn taking games such as knocking over bricks and posting cards into a post box.
- Join in your child's play. Watch what they are doing and then join in following their lead. Don't ask lots of questions but comment on what you and your child are doing.
- Keep your language simple.
- Encourage your child to listen to sounds around them.

DID YOU KNOW?

Your child's language develops gradually through interaction with the people and things around them.

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I want to
know what
things
are
called



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Talk with me - Communication tips for parents 18 to 24 months

COMMUNICATION TIPS

- Talk about what you are doing when doing jobs around the house such as cleaning and loading the washing machine.
- Use lots of praise when your child communicates with you.
- Read books as often as you can. Point to things in the pictures. Respond to your child's interest in the pictures. Read favourite books over and over. Books with lots of repetition are good at this age.
- Sing nursery rhymes during bath time, when you're out for a walk or playing in the garden.
- Respond to all attempts at communication. If your child points to something, name it.
- Play early turn taking games such as knocking over bricks and posting cards into a post box.
- Join in your child's play. Watch what they are doing and then join in, following their lead. Don't ask lots of questions but comment on what you and your child are doing.
- Keep your language simple.
- Encourage your child to listen to sounds around them.

DID YOU KNOW?

The environment plays a key role in supporting and extending your child's development and learning.

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"what I like"

- Helping you with jobs around the house.
- Listening to stories and looking at books with you.
- When you join in my games.
- When you tell me the names of things, but please remember that I need to hear it more than once.

"what I can do"

- Understand and recognise frequently used words and phrases.
- Respond to simple instructions such as 'come here', 'get your shoes' and 'put it in the box'.
- Turn when I hear my name.
- Choose activities that I want to play. I am starting to play pretend games.
- Say up to 50 words.
- I am starting to put two words together.



I'm
saying **lots**
more
words
now



SURREY

Talk with me - Communication tips for parents

2 to 3 years

COMMUNICATION TIPS

- Read books with your child as often as you can. Talk about the pictures. Let them fill in parts of familiar stories.
- Make time to listen to your child when they are telling you something. Stop what you are doing and get down to their level.
- If your child's sentence is muddled don't correct them but repeat back to them how they could have said it.
- Join in play with your child, following their lead.
- Sing songs and nursery rhymes, pausing for them to fill in missing words.
- Your child is still learning new words and hearing them many times will help them learn them quicker.
- Don't correct words that are not said correctly, as with muddled sentences just repeat back the word said with the correct sounds.
- Play games that take turns such as simple pairs, lotto or catching a ball.
- Restrict the amount of TV your child watches. Make sure that your child has plenty of opportunities to interact with you, the rest of the family and friends.
- Talk about and involve your child in everyday situations such as shopping, cooking or cleaning. Your child will enjoy these more when they are given a role to play and are included in conversations as they happen.

DID YOU KNOW?

Your child learns best through activities and experiences that engage all the senses.

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"what I like"

- Singing songs.
- To ask questions beginning with 'who', 'what' and 'why'.

"what I can do"

- I can put lots of words together and have a conversation with you.
- I am beginning to be able to talk about things that happened in the past as well as things that are happening now.
- I can understand questions that you ask beginning with 'who' and 'where' and I'm beginning to understand 'why' questions.
- I am learning the meaning of words that describe size such as 'big' and 'little', colour such as 'red', 'yellow' or 'black' and position such as 'in', 'on' or 'under' and I use these to tell you about things.
- I can listen to longer stories and enjoy familiar ones where I can join in.
- I am beginning to understand about emotions and may be able to tell you how I am feeling, if not I will do soon.
- I may still have difficulty making some sounds but you should be able to understand me most of the time. Other people may find it more difficult.



enjoy
with talking
you



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Talk with me - Communication tips for parents

3 to 4 years

COMMUNICATION TIPS

- Read books with your child as often as you can. Talk about the pictures. Let them fill in parts of familiar stories. Read favourite books frequently.
- Make time to listen to your child when they are telling you something. Stop what you are doing and get down to their level. Have a special time to talk about their day.
- If your child's sentence is muddled don't correct them but repeat back to them how they could have said it.
- Join in pretend play with your child, following their lead. Let them be the 'mum' or 'teacher'.
- Sing songs and nursery rhymes, pausing for them to fill in missing words.
- Introduce games with rules, such as 'snakes and ladders'.
- Your child is still learning new words and hearing them many times will help them learn them quicker.
- Don't correct words that are not said correctly, as with muddled sentences just repeat back the word said with the correct sounds.
- Restrict the amount of TV your child watches. Make sure that your child has plenty of opportunities to interact with you, the rest of the family and friends.
- Talk about and involve your child in everyday situations such as shopping, cooking, and cleaning. Your child will enjoy these more when they are given a role to play and are included in conversations as they happen.

DID YOU KNOW?

As your child develops speaking and listening skills they build the foundations for literacy and learning. Your child needs varied opportunities to interact with others and to use a wide variety of resources for expressing their understanding.

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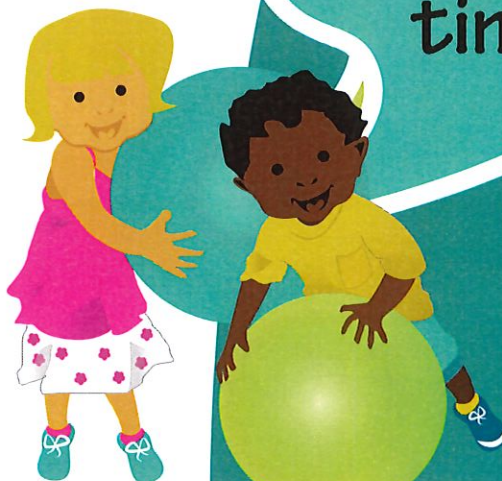
"what I like"

- Playing with others.

"what I can do"

- I am using longer sentences and beginning to link sentences by using 'and', 'but' and 'because'.
- I can talk about events in the past and present.
- I can retell stories.
- The number of words I know is continuing to grow.
- I may still have a problem with some sounds but most people understand me most of the time.
- I can understand questions beginning with 'why'.
- I may still make some mistakes with grammar, for example saying 'mouses' instead of 'mice'.
- I can carry out a sequence of actions or instructions.
- I can join in games with rules and understand taking turns and sharing.
- I can listen to longer stories.
- I am beginning to understand simple jokes.
- I am beginning to form friendships.

Listen to me,
I talk all
the
time



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Talk with me - Communication tips for parents 4 years plus

COMMUNICATION TIPS

- Continue to spend time looking at and reading books together. Talk about new words and their meanings.
- Make sure you give your child time to talk, your child is trying to express more complex ideas and may need more time to respond to questions while they are getting their words sorted out before they speak.
- Repeat back to your child what they said but reword it into a correct sentence rather than correcting them.
- Play games with sounds and rhymes. This will help with developing reading and writing skills.
- Play board games to develop listening, turn taking and following rules. These can also be good for showing examples of good social language.
- Make sure you set a good example of social language by using words such as 'please' and 'hello' at appropriate times so that your child can use these words and recognise when they are needed.
- Involve your child in everyday routines.
- Encourage imaginative play and join in pretend games with your child.
- Make sure you know what your child is learning at nursery or school and reinforce with games, books and activities at home. This will help them learn new words more easily and allow them to practice and use language associated with their learning more often.
- Be aware of when you are using expressions such as 'pull your socks up', make sure you explain the meaning. This can be fun for children to learn at this age.

DID YOU KNOW?

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"what I like"

- Telling jokes with my friends, although they may not always be funny.

"what I can do"

- I can listen to what you are saying whilst carrying on with what I am doing.
- My sentences are much more complex and adult like.
- I can have more detailed conversations with you, including talking about the past, present and future.
- I can understand more complex instructions including using sequences like first and last.
- I can plan games with my friends.
- I can listen to longer stories.
- I can play games with rules and take my turn with a larger group of people.
- I like to play imaginary games with my toys and with my friends.
- I'm beginning to understand when you use expressions such as 'shake a leg' but you will need to explain these when you first use them.



I'm a
fantastic
talker



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