



Fun Talk: 6 - 12 Months

Your baby will make many more new sounds now. It may sound as if he is trying to say sentences or ask questions even though you will not be able to tell what he's saying. He will probably enjoy playing *patty-cake* and *peek-a-boo* games. He should recognize his name. Close to his first birthday, he will probably understand "no-no" and say two or three real words. You can help your baby get a good start with language by using good speech yourself and showing excitement at his attempts to walk.

Things to try:

6 -9 Months

- Listen for the sounds your baby says, such as "da, ma, ba." Use them to form pairs such as "da-da," "ma-ma", "ba-ba." Look at your baby and make these sounds when you play with him or change his diaper. He'll probably laugh if you make funny faces as you say the sounds. He may try to say some of the sounds after you.
- Let your baby get used to phrases you use at certain times every day such as "bye-bye," "night-night."
Example: Have Daddy wave and say "bye-bye" before leaving for work.
- Help your baby want to talk by smiling at him, touching him, hugging him, repeating his sounds or showing excitement when he tries to walk.
- Put several objects on the floor. Tell your baby to find one of the objects. If your baby picks the right one by looking at it, crawling toward it, or trying to get it, praise him and say, "Yes, that's the ____."
- Try the same thing with the other objects. If he picks up the wrong one, just say, "Look, here's the ____" and show it to him.

9-12 Months

Holding the baby carefully, move him to the rhythm of a song or nursery rhyme as you sing it or do the same thing using a radio, tape or CD.

- Your baby will imitate words as well as sounds now, so help him learn names of objects. **EXAMPLE:** "Here is your ball. Can you say ball?"
If he just says part of the word, such as "ba," say "Yes, that's a ball." He may not be able to say the whole word.
- Play games with your baby that use body movements such as *patty-cake* and *peek-a-boo*.
- Hide a cracker or toy under a napkin while your baby is sitting in his chair. Let him see where the object is hidden and encourage him to take away the napkin.
- Tell your baby simple things to do using objects he understands.
EXAMPLE: cookie eat cookie
 ball roll ball
 milk drink milk

Tell him how great it is when he does it. Show him how to do it if he doesn't seem to understand.

For more information contact Guilford County Department of Public Health at 336-641-7777 or www.myguilford.com