

0-2 Months

The Development of Language and Conceptual Abilities in Children

What the typical child might say and do:	What the typical child knows or thinks:	What you should say or do:	Cautions:
<p>Makes small, throaty sounds that turn into cooing by the end of the first month</p> <p>Turns head to follow sounds, especially mother's voice</p> <p>Cries to get all needs met</p>	<p>Can distinguish one language from another (Russian babies respond more to hearing spoken Russian, while French babies respond more to spoken French, etc.)</p> <p>Knows and responds to mother's voice</p> <p>Begins to make simple associations (such as that crying leads to being fed)</p>	<p>Speak softly, with a high vocal pitch, and use short, simple sentences/phrases. ("Sweet baby...")</p> <p>Hold baby and observe whether s/he responds to your tone of voice.</p> <p>Rock or stroke baby to comfort him/her.</p>	<p>Avoid making loud sounds as you approach the baby.</p> <p>Avoid sudden or startling movements.</p>

Indicators of possible developmental problems:

Doesn't cry, babble, or respond to stimuli