

3-6 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>Chuckles, gurgles, squeals, whimpers, and makes vowel-like noises (“ooh-ooh, eeeh”)</p> <p>Babbles routinely to self and others</p> <p>May raise voice as if asking a question by end of sixth month</p> <p>Cries to signal needs, distress, and/or desire for company</p> <p>Imitates sounds and facial expressions</p>	<p>Memory begins to build; distinguishes who's who in his/her life</p> <p>May recognize mother in a group of people</p> <p>May perceive cause-and-effect relationships (if the rattle is shaken, it will make a sound) by end of sixth month</p>	<p>Speak with a soft voice and use simple sentences.</p> <p>Address baby by name. (“How's Amanda today?”)</p> <p>Hold baby, make eye contact, and observe baby's response to being held.</p>	<p>Avoid loud noises and sudden, startling movements.</p>

Indicators of possible developmental problems:

Doesn't turn toward voices

Crying seems unrelated to needs

Isn't vocalizing