

6-9 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>Starts to imitate a broader range of sounds</p> <p>May say “da-da” or “ma-ma” by ninth month</p> <p>May remember how to respond to specific words/phrases (raises arms to be lifted after hearing the words “picked up,” etc.)</p> <p>Listens intently to conversations around him/her</p> <p>Responds to own image in mirror</p>	<p>Memory improves (may anticipate that a jack-in-the-box pops up at the end of the song, etc.)</p> <p>May begin to be shy with strangers</p> <p>Clearly knows mother, family members, and other significant individuals</p> <p>Intentionally summons others by crying or yelling</p>	<p>Approach the child very slowly and gently.</p> <p>Use a soft voice and speak slowly.</p>	<p>Don't startle or surprise baby with sudden movements.</p>

Indicators of possible developmental problems:

Stops babbling

Isn't imitating sounds, gestures, or expressions

Doesn't look at objects shown by adults