

9-12 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>Adds gestures to words; may wave “bye-bye”</p> <p>Babbles short sentences only s/he understands (beginning of patterned speech)</p> <p>Expresses frustration, hunger, illness, and boredom with specific emotional cries (each with a distinct sound)</p> <p>Responds to own name</p>	<p>Says an average of 3 words (but understands many more) by 12 months</p> <p>Begins to show signs of self-recognition</p> <p>Realizes that objects exist even when they can't be seen</p>	<p>Approach the child very slowly and gently.</p> <p>Use a soft tone of voice and speak slowly.</p>	<p>Don't startle or surprise baby with sudden movements.</p>

Indicators of possible developmental problems:

Doesn't engage in baby games

Doesn't wave “bye-bye”

Doesn't take turns vocalizing