Did you know?

- Most children understand much more than they have the ability to talk about
- Because all children develop at different rates, children will learn to speak at different times
- A child's ability to talk depends on things like:
 - who the child spends time with
 - the way the child understands things
 - how quickly the child's body has grown
 - the type of language the child hears at home

Inside this brochure you will find information about your child's speech from birth to age three

If you think there is a problem:

Remember, all children grow at different rates

There might be a problem if your child:

- does not make eye contact
- does not seem to understand or use any words by 18 months
- does not know ordinary household objects
- is unable to pay attention to a book or movie
- has difficulty learning simple nursery rhymes or songs

If you are concerned, ask your health care provider for advice

Baby Talk: WHAT KIDS SAY

Researched and Developed by members of





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This public document is published at a total cost of \$563.00. Ten thousand copies (10,000) of this public document were published in this third printing at a cost of \$563.00. The total cost of all printings of this document including reprints is \$1,544.00. This document was published by Volunteers of America Greater Baton Rouge under authority of the Louisiana Department of Education. This material was printed in accordance with standards for printing by State Agencies established in R.S. 43:31. Printing of this material was purchased in accordance with the provisions of Title 43 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes.

Baby Talk

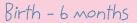
WHAT KIDS SAY

A Guide to Your Child's Language Development



MILESTONES





- Makes pleasure sounds
- Looks at familiar person during play, looks away, and looks back again
- Repeats the same sounds
- Different cries mean different things
- Begins to smile
- Babbling begins to sound like real talk (4-6 months)
- Can gesture and make special sounds that tell you what she wants (4-6 months)

- Speak to your child describe what you are doing, tell him about your day, point out objects that are in your house, etc.
- Sing songs to your child
- Read to your child every day
- Recite nursery rhymes

4 months - 1 year

- Begins to use words and non-crying sounds to get attention
- Imitates talking sounds
- Babbles with both long sounds and short sounds
- Makes gurgling sounds when left alone or playing with you

- Continue to read to your child every day
- Speak slowly and clearly
- Sing songs to your child
- Make sure to use language correctly when speaking to your child

1 - 2 years

- Learns more words each month
- Begins to put two or more words together in questions
- Starts to use two or more words together to make sentences
- Is able to use many consonant sounds to begin words
- Can say a few "real" words

- Continue to read aloud to your child
- Teach your child the songs that you sing and sing the songs together
- Listen attentively to your child
- Accept your child's speech irregularities

2 - 3 years

- Has a word for almost everything
- Can make short, 2-3 word sentences
- Is easily understood by familiar listeners
- Directs your attention to an object by naming it

- Continue to read aloud to your child everyday
- Sing songs with your child
- Listen to what your child has to say
- Help your child to expand on what he is saying
- Encourage pretend play

