WHAT I AM DOING
I recognise your voice –
I learnt it before I was born.
I prefer to listen to your voice
than any other.
I love looking at faces.
I can see best from 6–10 inches
(around 20 cm), so hold me close.
I can copy you
if you stick your
tongue out at me – pull funny faces
to get my interest.

WHAT CAN WE DO TOGETHER?
Playing games with me helps develop the connections
in my brain.
Singing to me helps calm me down.
Talk to me gently
and in very short sentences.
It’s good to chat when we are
doing things together – feeding,
getting dressed and having
my nappy changed.

WHAT I AM DOING
I am taking much more interest
in the world around me.
I especially like to look for faces
that I know.
I can hold things now –
my clothes or your hair.
My voice is changing.
Different cries mean different things –
whether I am hungry or scared
or just fed up.

WHAT CAN WE DO TOGETHER?
I was ………… when I first sat up.
My favourite thing at the moment is:

WHAT I AM DOING
I am interested in sounds.
I might look
for where the sound is coming from,
like the phone or the doorbell.
I have started to play with the sounds
that I can make with my mouth.
I’m learning who is who – so I might be
a bit worried about people I don’t know.

WHAT CAN WE DO TOGETHER?
Not all children need dummies.
If I do use one, try to keep it to naptimes
so I can practise talking.
Use the same words over and over again
in the same situation. Then I can learn
what words mean. I am beginning to learn
that ‘milk’ is the name for what I drink
and ‘bye-bye’ means that someone is going.
I love hearing you talk to me.
We can play together – you copy some of
the sounds that I make – then later I will
want to copy the sounds that you make.

ABOUT ME:
My name is:
Date and time I was born:
I weighed:

This is me!  
Stick my photograph here

© I CAN 2007
MY FIRST BIRTHDAY

12-18 months

ABOUT ME:

My favourite game or song is:

I started walking when I was ..................

My first word was ..................

I have ............ teeth

WHAT CAN WE DO TOGETHER?

Copying is one of the first steps in learning to talk. Play copying games with me – copying faces that we pull at each other, clapping hands or making sounds.

Talk to me in short sentences. Talk about what I see around me or noises that I hear. When you say the same thing lots of times, I will get to know the words.

When we chat, leave time for me to say something back to you. Say the word back to me and I will learn how to say it like you do.

Quiet times during the day help me listen.

I like listening to you singing, making noises and talking to me. Turn off other sounds so I can listen easily.

WHAT I AM DOING

I can understand one word at a time, if I have heard them lots. Favourites are ‘milk’, ‘cup’ and ‘teddy’.

I understand more words than I can say.

By 18 months, I can say around 10 words that my family can understand.

I can point to something and ask for it by making speech sounds, although it might be hard to work out what I am saying.

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