

TURN-TAKING

- **0-3 months:** ask parents to try poking their tongue out or opening their mouths to see if their babies copy them. Who has noticed their baby yawns when they do – or that they yawn when their baby does?
- **3-6 months:** find a baby who is making faces. Try opening and closing your mouth or opening your eyes wide – babies will respond and copy you. You can do this with sounds as well – try blowing ‘raspberries’.
- **6-12 months:** do they turn when you say their name? Or the name of someone they are familiar with – like siblings? You can make this into a game: ‘Where’s x?’. They may also babble strings of sounds in turns with an adult.
- **12-18 months:** copying smiles and peep/boo games

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Eye Contact

- **0-3 months:** find a baby who is looking at their parent's face. Explain that babies love to look at their parents' faces. New babies can't focus very well, so the best distance is when they are in your arms.
- **3-6 months:** find a baby who is looking at their parent when they talk, or who looks at you when you speak. Explain to parents that eye contact is a key communication skill – we still use it as adults to show we are listening to people when they speak.
- **6-12 months:** as above – find a baby who is looking at their parent and then at a toy or other object. Explain that babies can use eye contact followed by looking at something to get their parents to share their interest in an object or event.
- **12-18 months:** as above

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Gesture

- **0-3 months:** find a 'wiggly' baby or a baby who is waving their arms. Explain that new babies 'talk' with their whole bodies – if they aren't happy, you can tell from their face and their body; if they're happy, they might wriggle as well as smile.
- **3-6 months:** find a baby who is turning their head to look at something, reaching for something or waving/holding out a toy. Explain that gesture is an early form of communicating that they are interested in something and want you to be interested too.
- **6-12 months:** find a baby using gesture. Explain that copying gestures like shaking an instrument, waving, as well as turning to the door-bell or microwave timer are all ways of learning how to communicate.
- **12-18 months:** as above. Explain that pointing and then looking at you can help them learn new words because you can say the name of the thing or action they are pointing at. Ask whose baby is shaking their head for 'no' and nodding for 'yes'.

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vocalisation

- **0-3 months:** if a baby is crying – ask if the parents can think of why? Can they tell different cries yet for tired vs hungry for example? Crying tells us lots – even though it can be very stressful (it's meant to be – babies don't have any other way to get our attention). If a baby is making another noise, draw attention to that.
- **3-6 months:** using sounds, laughing. Making a range of different sounds.
- **6-12 months:** using sounds, mainly English (or another language they hear around them); may have their own 'words' for familiar people and/or things – have parents noticed this?
- **12-18 months:** as above plus some words and maybe phrases like 'bye-bye' or 'all gone'.

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