

Talk with me - Communication tips for parents

6 to 12 months

COMMUNICATION TIPS

- Hold your baby close so that they can see your face and hear your voice and you can see their face.
- Talk to your baby, they are comforted by your voice. Repeat words frequently, name familiar objects such as 'teddy', actions such as 'drink', activities such as 'bath time' and people such as 'daddy'.
- Good talking times are nappy changing, bath times, getting dressed, going for a walk, feeding, in fact all the time.
- Encourage your baby to look at you while you are talking, this will help develop their listening skills.
- Copy sounds such as babbling and the faces your baby makes, wait for a pause in their sound making and then respond, this is early turn taking.
- Playing helps your baby to learn, play with rattles, tickling and 'peek a boo'.
- Watch to see what makes your baby smile and do more of this.
- Use your baby's name every time you talk to them.
- Read to your baby, let them see and feel the books as you read. Read books more than once. They love repetition and even if they can't understand the words they love to hear your voice.
- Let your child explore their environment so that they can learn how things look, feel, sound, smell and taste.

DID YOU KNOW?

Your child learns to be strong and independent from a base of loving and secure relationships with you, their parents.

For more information and tips about communicating with your child visit:

Surrey Family Information Service
www.surreycc.gov.uk/earlylearning
surrey.fis@surreycc.gov.uk
0300 200 1004

"what I like"

- When you hold me close so I can see your face and you make faces at me that I can copy. I like it when you play 'peek a boo' and sing to me.
- To explore new things and hold them in my hands. I like things that make a noise such as rattles, things that feel different, like squishy balls and things I can look at such as mobiles.

"what I can do"

- I can make sounds other than crying such as babbling 'ga ga' and 'da da'.
- I like to watch your face as you talk and copy the faces that you make.
- I smile back when you smile at me.
- I respond to my name.
- I listen and respond to voices, especially familiar ones.
- I am beginning to understand familiar words that are used frequently such as 'all gone', 'no' and 'more'.
- I am beginning to take turns with sounds.
- I can recognise familiar faces and objects.
- I am startled by loud noises.
- I am calmed by your gentle voice and singing.



I'm
trying out
my voice



SURREY