# **Language Development**

Your baby first "talks" to you by crying. He then learns to make sounds and smile. Eventually he'll start to use words.



- responds when you talk
- "talks" by smiling, gazing and crying
- discovers his voice gurgles, coos and squeals
- makes long vowel sounds ("ah")
- · has different cries for different needs



- babbles ("ba-ba")
- squeals
- · tries to copy the sounds you make

- turns head towards a person speaking
  makes
- makes longer and more varied sounds
  - tries out different volumes and pitches
  - makes sputtering sounds with his lips and tongue
  - "talks" to toys

### **SEEK CARE**

Are you concerned about your baby's development? Remember – every child is unique. But talk with your health care provider if your baby:

- has a very stiff or floppy body
- doesn't watch faces by 2 to 3 months
- is unusually quiet and still, or can never settle
- · doesn't react to loud noise
- holds his hands in tight fists
- · doesn't follow activities with his eyes
- · doesn't recognize you
- doesn't make sounds
- · has a lot of trouble feeding

## **KEY TAKEAWAY**

Talk to your baby all the time and respond whenever he communicates with you.

# **DID YOU KNOW**

You can talk to your baby in whatever language you feel most comfortable. In fact, your baby can learn more than one language without getting confused.

### **BRAIN BUILDER**

- Read, tell stories and sing to your baby.
- When you're bathing or diapering him, chat with him about what you're doing.
- Try to let him see your face when you're talking.
- Repeat and respond to his coos and babbles.