

Is your child learning language?

Does your child...

Birth to 3 months

- Startle at loud sounds (about 6 feet away)
- Make squealing sounds
- Feel comforted by mother's voice

3 to 6 months

- Turn head or eyes to an interesting sound (toys)
- Make several sounds (ooh, ba-ba, ma-ma)
- Respond to his/her name with a smile

6 to 9 months

- Listen to music or singing
- Imitate speech and non speech
- Understand "no" and "bye-bye"

9 to 12 months

- Turn head toward sound
- Produce these sounds in babbling:
b,m,p,d,t,n,g,k,w,f,v,th,s,z,l
- Say "mama" or "dada" with meaning

12 to 18 months

- Point to body parts, people, and toys
- Omit final and some initial consonant sounds ("ca" for "cat")
- Understand 50-75 words

18 to 24 months

- Comprehend about 300 words
- Use about 50 recognizable words
- Follow simple commands

24 to 36 months

- Learn new words everyday
- Make about half of speech sounds correctly
- Ask questions and answers "wh" questions (like why and what)



The *critical time* for learning
speech and language
is the first 3 years of life.

Babies need good hearing
to learn language quickly
during this time.



Help your child learn to listen

Limit background noise by turning off noisy appliances such as the AC, radio, or fans. Use the most quiet room in the house to be your child's room so you talk, talk, and talk.

Follow what interests your child. Talk about what your child is looking at and doing. Let your child lead during play time.

When you talk, **sit in front of your child** so he/she can see the expressions on your face. Sit and speak on the side of the better ear.

Speak at a **regular volume** (not too loud and not too soft). Communicate naturally!

Imitate your child. Children love hearing you talk like them. Focus on vowel sounds while using one or two words at a time.

Help your child listen to your voice. Speak with **different pitches, loudness, and rhythms**. Use lots of repetition.

Praise your child's communication attempts! Applaud when your child listens and responds to sound (for example, stopping movement, making eye contact, pointing at an object, imitating a sound, or changing body position).

Hearing can change over time

Your child may need hearing tests twice a year until age 3 if there was:

- Infection at birth (German Measels, Toxoplasmosis, Cytomegalovirus)
- Infection after birth (Menegitis)
- Low birthweight (1500 grams or less)
- Jaundice requiring blood transfusion
- Differently shaped head or face (cleft lip or palate)
- Breathing difficulty at birth
- Head injury
- Medicine that can damage the ear
- Two or more days in the neonatal intensive care unit
- Family history of permanent or progressive hearing loss

To find out more information call our:

Hawaii Keiki Information Services System (H-KISS) information and referral line

H-KISS Oahu

973-9633

(Voice & TDD)

or

H-KISS Neighbor Islands

Call toll-free:

1-800-235-5477

(Voice & TDD)



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GOOD HEARING HELPS A BABY LEARN TO TALK



A hearing test can be done at any age



NEWBORN HEARING SCREENING PROGRAM

**Early Intervention Section
Hawaii Department of Health**