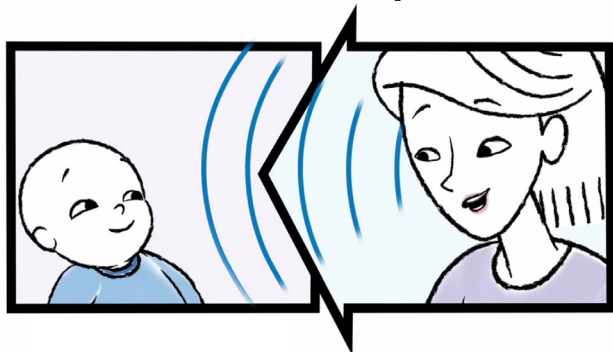




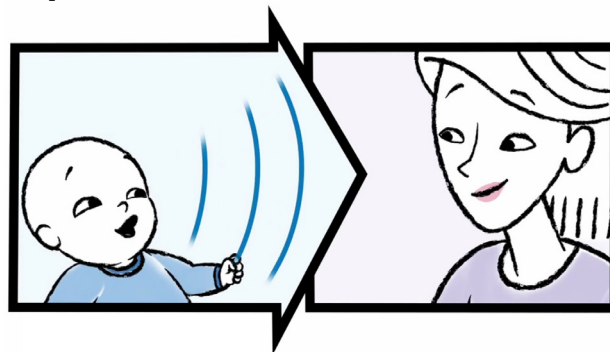
Crying, Cooing, Communication: Baby's First Year



Communication is made up of two parts:
receptive skills and *expressive skills*



Receptive skills are what babies take in
– hearing and understanding



Expressive skills are what babies put out
– sounds, gestures, and speech

**Talking, playing, and reading with your baby
helps build communication skills. Be sure to:**

- Describe to your baby what you are doing
- Talk in a slow, sing-song voice
- Point out objects while you talk
- Respond to and imitate your baby's sounds
- Describe pictures while you read together

Important Communication Milestones

3 months

- Holds eye contact with you
- Turns their head towards sound
- Quiets or smiles in response to your voice
- Makes sounds other than crying (e.g. coos)
- Puts objects in mouth

9 months

- Adds new sounds when babbling
- Looks at people and familiar objects when named
- Uses body language and gestures

6 months

- Babbles like “bababa” and “wawawa”
- Uses babbling to get attention
- Enjoys games like peek-a-boo
- Fears loud and unexpected noises

12 months

- Uses “mama” or “dada” to call mom or dad
- Makes sounds back and forth with others
- Responds to simple directions
- Pays attention to where you are looking and pointing
- Says their first one or two words

If you are concerned that your baby is not reaching milestones, trust your instincts, talk to your health care provider, and do not hesitate to schedule a screening with a speech-language pathologist.

For more information and resources on early communication development, you can visit us at www.pathways.org, call us at **1-800-955-CHILD (2445)**, or email us at friends@pathways.org



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