

BEFORE WORDS

Your pediatrician might ask you how many words your child is saying, but there are many other developmental milestones that precede first words.

Reciprocal Play

You use a sing-song voice and talk to your child. When you stop and look expectantly he makes noises and "talks" back to you using jargon.

Vocalizes to Objects

Your child holds and looks at objects in his hand. He vocalizes a variety of consonants or vowels.

Imitates Sounds

Your child copies raspberries, animal noises and other silly sounds. He is interested in watching your face and mouth.

Joint Attention

Joint attention is when you and your child share interest in the same item. It's an early social skill that is foundational for language and cognition. Your child looks at you and then looks at the airplane and then back at you.



Initiating Social Games

Your child initiates "chase" or rolling a ball back and forth. Peek-a-boo starts with your child hiding under a blanket and looking to you to continue the game.

Imitates Movement

Your child imitates movements such as clapping his hands to copy you. He understands and plays the "How Big?" game by putting his hands out wide.

Point to Objects

Your child is relating to you! He points to show you things or ask what something is. He points to tell you what he wants or where he wants to go.

Gesturing

Representational gestures include waving bye-bye and putting his arms up when he wants to be picked up. He uses his body to tell you what he wants!

Social Referencing

Your child wants you to watch him! He looks over while playing to make sure you're watching as he slides the cars down the ramp.

Push & Pull

Your child pushes and pulls you to things they want. They might take your hand and lead you around the house.