Making sounds checklist

Introduction

This list and the Reaction to Sounds Checklist give pointers about what to look for as your baby grows to check if he/she can hear. Babies do differ in what they can do at any given age. The ages presented here are approximate only.

Checklist

4 months - a baby:

Makes soft sounds when awake. Gurgles and coos.

6 months - a baby:

Makes laughter-like sounds. Starts to make sing-song vowel sounds (eg: a-a, muh, goo, der, aroo, adah).

9 months - a baby:

Makes sounds to communicate in friendliness or annoyance. Babbles (eg: 'dada da', 'ma ma ma', 'ba ba ba'). Shows pleasure in babbling loudly and tunefully. Starts to imitate other sounds like coughing or smacking lips.

12 months - a baby:

Babbles loudly, often in a conversational-type rhythm. May start to use one or two recognisable words.

15 months - a baby:

Makes lots of speech-like sounds. Uses 2-6 recognisable words meaningfully (eg: 'teddy' when seeing or wanting the teddy bear).

18 months - a baby:

Makes speech-like sounds with conversational-type rhythm when playing. Uses 6-20 recognisable words. Tries to join in nursery rhymes and songs.

24 months - a child:

Uses 50 or more recognisable words appropriately. Puts 2 or more words together to make simple sentences (for example: more milk). Joins in nursery rhymes and songs. Talks to self during play (may be incomprehensible to others).

30 months - a child:

Uses 200 or more recognisable words. Uses pronouns (eg: I, me, you). Uses sentences but many will lack adult structure. Talks intelligibly to self during play. Asks questions. Says a few nursery rhymes.