



## DOES YOUR CHILD:

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Child's Name*

Seem to understand a few simple words or gestures?

☐ Often

☐ Sometimes

☐ Not Yet

Use some gestures to communicate, such as waving hello or goodbye, or showing he/she wants to be picked up?

☐ Often

☐ Sometimes

☐ Not Yet

Respond to stories, books, or songs by making sounds, bouncing, or moving in other ways?

☐ Often

☐ Sometimes

☐ Not Yet



*Clip and return to school.*

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### Use familiar names

Say your baby's name often and use the names of familiar people or pets. Ask your child where someone is and respond if they look at or reach for that person. If appropriate, model a simple version of a person's name that your child might be able to imitate (e.g. "dada" for dad).

### Name objects in your home

Use simple but accurate labels for common objects so your child learns these names. Show things to your child and say the object's name. For example, before handing your child a cup, you might say, "Here is the cup." When you say "cup" again and look at the object, you reinforce that the word "cup" is associated with the object.

### Use gestures or signs with your child

Talking is a complicated process and simple gestures give your child an easy way to communicate as they learn to talk. Even if they don't start using them right away, show your child how you can use gestures (e.g. wave, lift arms to show "up", or bring the fingers of both hands together to sign "more").

### Encourage your child to use their voice

Your child may not be talking yet, but they may be practicing using their voice. Encourage them to repeat syllables ("babababa" or "mamamama"), make silly sounds, hum, or even screech. As your child practices the sounds that they hear you making when you talk, they are getting ready to use words that have meaning.

