

Supporting Language & Literacy at 4 Months

Give sounds meaning and get everyone involved

At 4 months, your baby will turn their head to the sound of noises and will start making sounds back when you talk with them. They show interest with gaze, movements, smiles, and sounds.

When you and others respond to your baby's sounds and other cues, they learn that their sounds and movements mean something. You are teaching them that their voice matters.

Everyone and anyone can help nourish your baby with language. Include everyone in the family in the conversation and encourage kids and adults to have their own conversations with their new family member.

Remember that your baby was born a citizen of the world and can easily understand and learn multiple languages at once. Make sure your baby is getting the best language nutrition possible by encouraging caregivers and family members to use the language they are most comfortable using. It won't confuse your baby. In fact, it will help their brains grow even stronger.

When choosing caregivers for your baby, make sure they nourish your baby with language throughout the day. Be sure to pass the conversation baton when dropping off and picking up your baby from a caregiver.

New language skills to look for:

- getting used to the world around them
- turns head towards the sound of your voice
- makes sounds back when you talk with them
- chuckles when you try to make them laugh
- uses gaze, movements, smiles, and sounds to get and keep your attention

Stories and books can be great conversation starters Here are some books that are good share at 4 months of age:

- *The Rainbow Fish* by Marcus Pfister
- *Pat the Bunny* (Touch and Feel Book) by Dorothy Kunhardt
- *Guess How Much I Love You* by Sam McBratney
- *My Pretty Brown Face* by Andrea and Brian Pinkney
- *Daddy Cuddles* by Anne Gutman
- *Toes, Ears, and Nose* by Karen Katz