

# Supporting Language & Literacy at 6 Months

## Narration & TALK

At 6 months, look for your baby to play with sounds and start to practice with babbling. Join in the fun as they take turns making sounds with you, including 'raspberries', squealing, and laughing. At this age, they show interest in objects by looking at them and by exploring them with their hands and mouth.

Long before they say their first word, your baby is learning that sounds and movements mean something through their conversations with you. Using the TALK strategy is an easy way to help support their transition from mostly reflexive communication to more intentional communication. Encourage this transition by Tuning In, Asking Questions, Lifting Language, and Keeping it Going

Babies build their vocabulary by linking words to things, people, actions, and thoughts. One simple way to help them make these types of connections is to narrate their day. Be your baby's sportscaster by talking about what they're seeing, doing, feeling, or experiencing. 'Brr! That ice cube is so cold. I bet your finger got cold when you touched it. Was it cold?'

### ***Language skills to look for:***

- recognize and respond to their name
- looks for family members when named
- blows "raspberries" (sticks tongue out and blows), makes squealing noises, and laughs
- starting to practice producing sounds by babbling (e.g., 'gah-gah', 'du-du', 'ba-ba')
- takes turns making sounds with you
- shows interest in objects by looking at them and manual/oral exploration

Stories and books are great ways to link words with things, people, actions, and thoughts. Here are some of our favorite books to explore with your 6-month-old:

- *Day Dreamers* by Emily Winfield Martin Rhymes
- *That's Not My Unicorn* by Fiona Watt
- *Brown Sugar Baby* by Kevin Lewis
- *Besos for Baby: A little book of kisses* by Jen Arena
- *BoBo Loves Dumplings* by Melissa Miao
- *Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You See?* by Bill Martin Jr and Eric Carle