



Your Baby's Communication Cues



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Every coo, look, and movement can become a turn in a conversation. Watch closely and respond so your baby experiences that communication reaches you.

Helps Your Child Grow



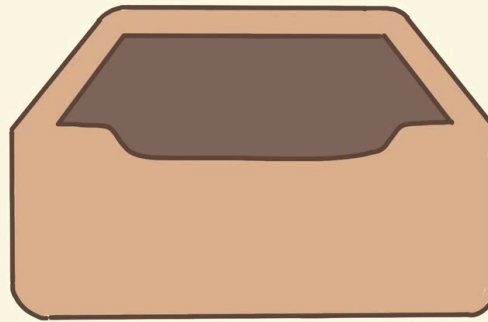
Communicating and Speaking

Watching, interpreting, and responding to your baby's signals encourages them to communicate in a growing range of ways.



Relationships with Adults

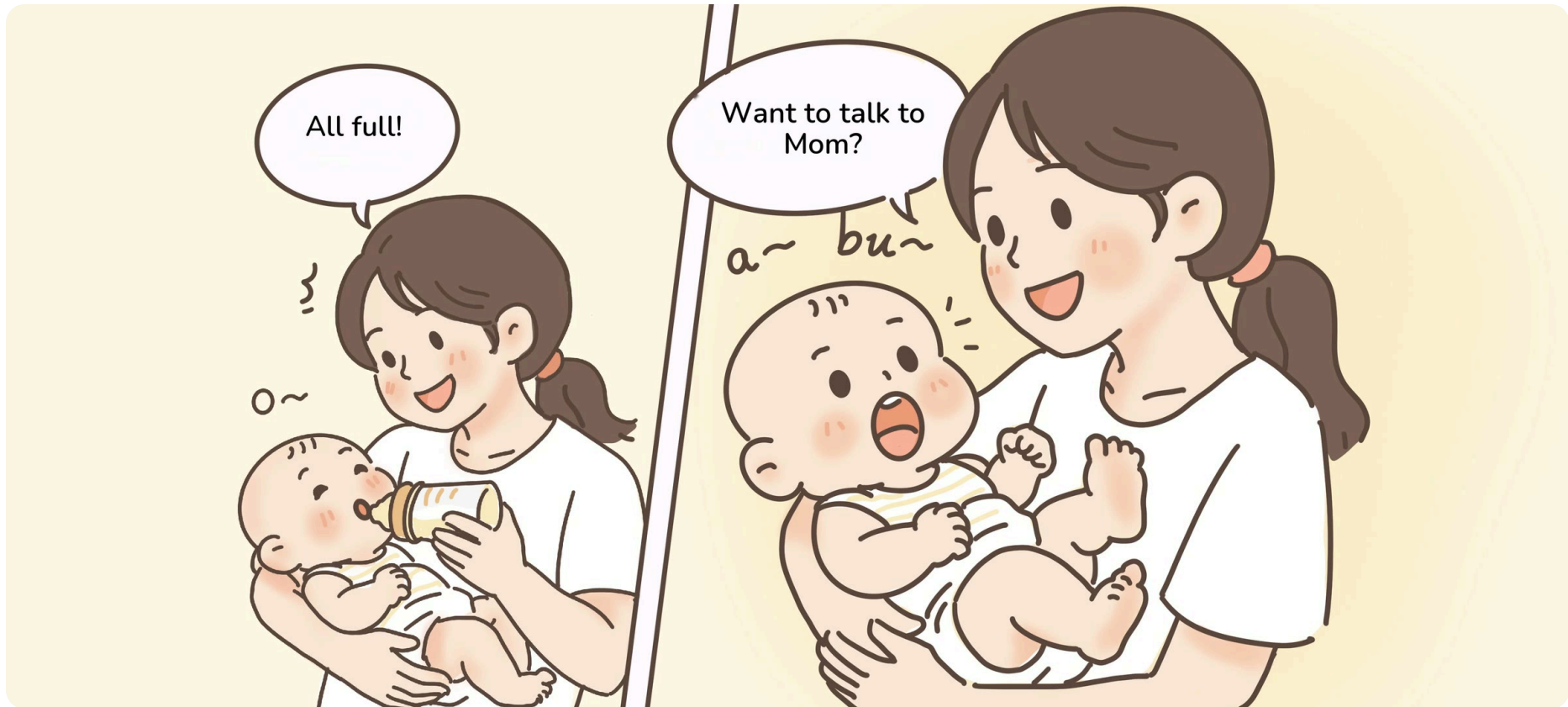
Consistent, warm responses to small needs help your baby build trust in familiar adults.



No materials needed

What You'll Need

No materials needed.



A Relaxed Sound Conversation

When your baby coos during a quiet moment, notice the sound and expression. Answer in a similar tone, then pause so they can take another turn and continue the exchange in their own way.

Observations

- Vocalizes and watches for your response
- Continues cooing after hearing you answer

Tips

- Face-to-face smiles, eye contact, peekaboo, cuddles, and imitating one another's sounds or faces can all support early social exchange.
- Use a slightly higher pitch, slower pace, short phrases, and simple words when talking with a young baby.



Notice “I Want More”

During a close interaction, watch for a look, movement, or sound that communicates enjoyment or refusal. Invite another signal with a short question - “Want a foot rub too?” - then respond in words or actions to what your baby shows.

Observations

- Uses a look, arm or leg movement, or smile to show enjoyment
- Laughs or coos to regain your attention

Tips

- Bathing, massage, stories, and songs can all create familiar moments for close communication.
- A young baby’s sounds are important communication. A timely response helps them experience that their voice is heard.
- Each response can encourage another signal while building trust in the adult who answers.
- Before moving to another body part, ask one short question and wait for your baby’s response.



Notice “I Need Help”

When your baby is tired but not yet asleep, fussing may communicate discomfort or fatigue. Watch the cues, put the feeling into words, and soothe them gradually. A softer body and sleep show how they respond.

Observations

- Uses crying, fussing, or body movement to signal discomfort
- Rubs their eyes when tired and looks for your help

Tips

- Crying is not the only signal. Before a cry grows, smaller sounds and body movements may already communicate a need.
- Keep the light dim as sleep approaches so the setting provides a consistent nighttime cue.
- Sleepy cues can include rubbing the head, ears, or eyes; stronger arm and leg movements; fussing; soft vocal sounds; or yawning.
- When an adult notices and responds, your baby experiences that expressing a need can lead to support.