



Early Communication Signals

Take turns asking and responding.

Helps Your Child Grow



Communicating and Speaking

When you ask and your baby responds with a look, sound, or action, the repeated turn-taking helps them experience a question as an invitation for an answer.

Steps

- A question-and-response rhythm gives your baby early experience with taking turns in a conversation.
- Describe what they are doing as a question: “What are you looking at?” or “What are you playing with?”
- Pause for the next look, expression, gesture, movement, or sound. Any of these can be your baby’s answer.
- Build on that response. If they hold up a toy, say, “Is that for Mom? Thank you!”
- Pause again so your baby has another opening to respond and the exchange can continue.

Tips

- These questions are invitations to interact, not requests for a spoken answer. A look, expression, movement, or sound is already part of the conversation.
- Early question-and-response exchanges give your baby experience using another person to explore a new word, object, or answer.

Observations

- Communicates with you through movements, eye contact, facial expressions, or sounds
- Looks at you and smiles while you talk, showing interest in the exchange