

Appendix 6

0–12 month development

Age:	Skill:	Why this helps listening:	How to help:
3-6 weeks	Making eye contact	Young children have single-channelled attention and need to look in order to listen. Encouraging eye contact helps them to focus on the person who is talking and also gives them lots of extra useful information that will help them to understand.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Get down to your baby's eye level when talking to them. • Look at them when breast or bottle feeding them. • Avoid screen time for babies who are younger than 12 months old. • Choose a rear facing push chair or buggy so your baby can see your face.
1 month +	Showing a preference for voice over other noises	A speaker's voice need to be 15-20 decibels louder than the background noise in order for a child to focus on it. Reducing the background noise will help children to do this.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce background noise as much as possible. • Turn the television off when no-one is watching it. • Sing songs and nursery rhymes to your baby from birth.
6 months +	Turn taking with sounds	This is an important skill for conversation and teaches children that only one person talks at a time and the other person stays quiet so they can listen until it is their turn to talk.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce background noise as much as possible. • Look at your baby so they can pick up your non-verbal cues to help them take turns. • Copy the sounds they make to you.
6 months +	Responds to the emotion in parent's voice	This helps children to understand how people are feeling as tone of voice can change what people mean.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use lots of facial expression when talking to your baby. • Make sure your facial expression and tone of voice match.
12 months +	Turns to name	<p>This helps children to recognise when people are talking to them and to listen to language directed at them.</p> <p>It is a useful skill to teach children to share attention with other people.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use your baby's name from birth. • Make up songs with their name. • Call their name and wait for them to look before speaking.