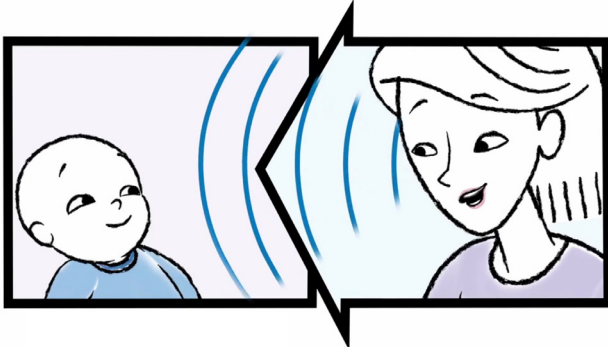




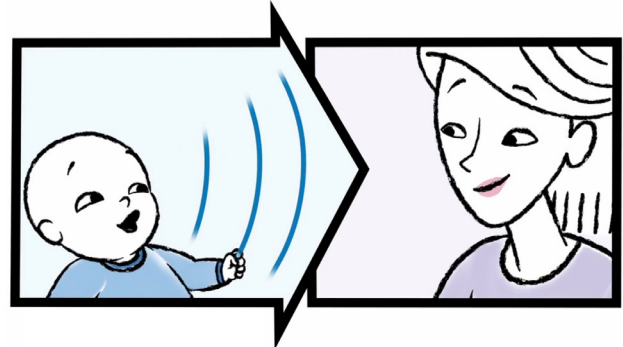
# Crying, Cooing, Communication: Baby's First Year



**Communication is made up of two parts:**  
*receptive skills* and *expressive skills*



**Receptive skills** are what babies take in  
– hearing and understanding



**Expressive skills** are what babies put out  
– sounds, gestures, and speech

**Talking, playing, and reading with your baby helps build communication skills. Be sure to:**

- Describe to your baby what you are doing
- Talk in a slow, sing-song voice
- Point out objects while you talk
- Respond to and imitate your baby's sounds
- Describe pictures while you read together

## Important Communication Milestones

### 3 months

- Holds eye contact with you
- Turns their head towards sound
- Quiets or smiles in response to your voice
- Makes sounds other than crying (e.g. coos)
- Puts objects in mouth

### 9 months

- Adds new sounds when babbling
- Looks at people and familiar objects when named
- Uses body language and gestures

### 6 months

- Babbles like “bababa” and “wawawa”
- Uses babbling to get attention
- Enjoys games like peek-a-boo
- Fears loud and unexpected noises

### 12 months

- Uses “mama” or “dada” to call mom or dad
- Makes sounds back and forth with others
- Responds to simple directions
- Pays attention to where you are looking and pointing
- Says their first one or two words

**If you are concerned that your baby is not reaching milestones, trust your instincts, talk to your health care provider, and do not hesitate to schedule a screening with a speech-language pathologist.**

For more information and resources on early communication development, you can visit us at [www.pathways.org](http://www.pathways.org), call us at **1-800-955-CHILD (2445)**, or email us at [friends@pathways.org](mailto:friends@pathways.org)



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(847) 729-6220

