

5 – 6  
Months

# Parenting Future Readers



## What to expect

At about 6-months your baby starts *babbling* or making sounds such as “babababa” or “mamamama”. These sounds are not real words yet.

Your baby is practicing language!

## Facial cues and tone of voice

Babies spend a lot of time looking at their parents’ faces and listening to their tone of voice.

It is important to smile and speak kindly to your baby. Babies will be scared if you frown or raise your voice.

Babies this age are too young to understand when parents are angry or upset, but they still get scared.

It is important to use a positive tone of voice when around your baby.

## Parenting tips

Your baby will practice talking more when you play with them.

Point to things and say their names in order to teach your baby words.

Even though your baby can’t talk yet, they will still learn new words when you read to them. Make sure you point to the pictures.

## Did you know that...

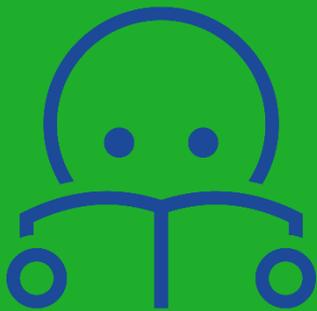
 You can help your baby learn to talk by imitating any sounds that they make.

 Knowing lots of words will make it easier for your baby to learn to read in the future.

 Reading to your baby helps them learn words and feel good about books and reading.

 Some babies will do things earlier or later than described here.

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## What can you do?

### Activities to teach words

#### Touch and name

Touch your baby's nose and say, "Here's your nose!" Also do the same thing with baby's eyes, ear, fingers, toes, etc.

When the baby touches your ear, say "That's daddy's ear." Then touch your baby's ear and say, "Here is (Baby's Name) ear!"

When your baby touches things name them.



#### Repeating sounds

Listen for your baby's sounds.

Repeat the sounds back to your baby, letting them see your face as you speak.

Pause and give your baby a chance to react. They may even try to repeat the sound again!

#### Check out this site for more tips:

<https://parenting.extension.wisc.edu/eparenting-little-ones/>

### Read to baby

Select books made from cardboard, cloth, or plastic.

Babies especially like books that have special parts to feel, like pretend fur or felt.

It's okay if your baby likes chewing on the books as much as looking at the pictures. The goal is to get your baby to love books.

Select books with large, colorful pictures of children or animals.

Babies love books with silly rhymes.

Point to pictures and name things.

Let your baby turn the pages by holding onto all but the next page.

Stop reading when your baby seems bored. Remember babies have a short attention span.

