

This list gives pointers about what to look and listen out for as your baby grows to check if he/she can hear. Babies do differ in what they can do at any given age. The ages presented here are approximate only.

Shortly after birth – a baby

Is startled by a sudden loud noise such as a hand clap or a door slamming. Blinks or opens eyes widely to such sounds or stops sucking or starts to cry.

1 month – a baby

Starts to notice sudden prolonged sounds like the noise of a vacuum cleaner and may turn towards the noise. Pauses and listens to the noises when they begin.

4 months – a baby

Quietens or smiles to the sound of familiar voice even when unable to see speaker and turns eyes or head towards voice. Shows excitement at sounds e.g. voices, footsteps etc. Makes soft sounds when awake. Gurgles and coos

6 months – a baby

Makes laughter-like sounds. Starts to make sing-song vowel sounds e.g. *a-a, muh, goo, der, aroo, adah*.

7 months – a baby

Turns immediately to familiar voice across the room or to very quiet noises made on each side (if not too occupied with other things).

9 months – a baby

Listens attentively to familiar everyday sounds and searches for very quiet sounds made out of sight. Makes sounds to communicate in friendliness or annoyance. Babbles (e.g. *'dada da', 'ma ma ma', 'ba ba ba'*). Shows pleasure in babbling loudly and tunefully. Starts to imitate other sounds like coughing or smacking lips.

12 months – a baby

Shows some response to own name. May also respond to expressions like 'no' and 'bye bye' even when any accompanying gesture cannot be seen. Babbles loudly, often in a conversational-type rhythm. May start to use one or two recognisable words.

15 months – a baby

Makes lots of speech-like sounds. Uses 2-6 recognisable words meaningfully (e.g. *'teddy'* when seeing or wanting the teddy bear).

18 months – a baby

Makes speech-like sounds with conversational-type rhythm when playing. Uses 6-20 recognisable words. Tries to join in nursery rhymes and songs.

24 months – a child

Uses 50 or more recognisable words appropriately. Puts 2 or more words together to make simple sentences e.g. *more milk*. Joins in nursery rhymes and songs. Talks to self during play (may be incomprehensible to others).

30 months – a child

Uses 200 or more recognisable words. Uses pronouns (e.g. *I, me, you*). Uses sentences but many will lack adult structure. Talks intelligibly to self during play. Asks questions. Says a few nursery rhymes.