

# Supporting Language & Literacy

## 12 Months: Back-And-Forth Conversations

Back-and-forth conversations will sound and feel a little different as your baby starts to communicate using sounds and words. You can encourage this type of turn-taking in conversations through play.

### TIPS & ACTIVITIES



Teach your child what to do when they display unwanted behaviors. Instead of “Don’t pull the cat’s tail,” try, “Gentle hands with the cat.”

Try turn-taking in conversation through play. Take turns making animal sounds. RAWR!



Encourage imaginary play. Use any object and “make” a call to your child.



Sing songs about routines. “This is the way we wash our hands...”



Respond with words, facial expressions, and gestures when your child points.



## Common Language Milestones

Uses gestures like pointing, waving, and shaking head “no”

Can say one to two words meaningfully, like dada, up, or hi

Pays attention to where you are looking and pointing

Responds to simple directions, like come here or no

Imitates sounds, simple words, and actions

# Early Detection is Intervention

**Your child is always learning.**

As a caregiver, you have an amazing opportunity to guide them on a path to success!



**Talk with your child's healthcare provider if your child:**



Does not turn when someone calls their name



Shows no recognition of familiar words, such as mama, dada, or dog



Source: Pathways.org

## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

[Pathways: Communication](#)

[Harvard University: Center on the Developing Child](#)

[Cox Campus](#)

[The Basics](#)

[CDC Milestones](#)