



## Other tips on communicating with your baby

- **Respond** to all of your baby's gestures.
  - When speaking to your baby, **use a slow pace, clear pronunciation and repetition.**
  - **Give babies time to respond when talking to them**, either through facial expressions, sounds or body movements.
  - **Hold, rock, and soothingly pat and bounce** your baby when he or she cries or fusses, as they are often looking for engagement with you.
  - At a very young age, babies communicate through **facial expressions, eye contact, and sounds**, like cooing and crying. If you hear your baby make a sound, repeat it and wait for him or her to make another.
  - **Gestures and body movements** are also used by babies to communicate before they are able to speak. Tell your baby what he or she is looking at or doing and what you are doing.
  - Babies tend to **pick up on how their loved ones are feeling**. Taking good care of yourself and keeping your anxiety levels down can also be an important way to take care of your baby.
  - Sometimes **babies aren't in the mood to talk or vocalize** — even babies might turn away, close their eyes, or become fussy or irritable. If this happens, let your little one be or just try cuddling.
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