

---

# PRELINGUISTIC SPEECH DEVELOPMENT

This illustrates the general process of prelinguistic speech sound development. There is significant overlap in skills between these stages and significant variation among children. Speak to your pediatrician if you have any concerns about speech and language skills.

## PHONATION

### 0-1 Month

- Demonstrates reflexive vocalization (i.e. crying, burping, coughing, sneezing).
- Demonstrates nonreflexive sounds that are similar to syllabic nasals (i.e. /n, m/).

## COOING AND GOOING

### 2-3 Months

- Uses sounds that are acoustically similar to:
  - back vowels
  - consonant-vowel and vowel-consonant combos with back vowels and back consonants (/k, g, ng/)

## EXPLORATION/ EXPANSION

### 4-6 Months

- Better control of laryngeal and articulatory mechanism by producing vocal play (squeals, growls, yells, produces "raspberries")
- Vocalizations vary daily and weekly.
- Begins marginal babbling with syllable sequences.

## CANONICAL BABBLING

### 7-9 Months

- Produces clearer CV combinations.
- Produces reduplicated babbling ("baba, mama").
- Uses more front sounds (/t,d,n,m,b,p/).

## VARIEGATED BABBLING

### 10-12 Months

- Uses different consonants and vowels together (i.e. "tikati").
- Uses more adult like intonation and prosody, so utterances may sound like exclamations or questions.
- Uses /h,d,b,m,t,g,s,w,n,k,j,p/.

See LinguSystems Communication Milestones and Oller, 1980 for more information.