

Stages of Language Development



In utero, babies:

- ✓ hear the pitch and rhythm of the mother's voice (but not individual words).



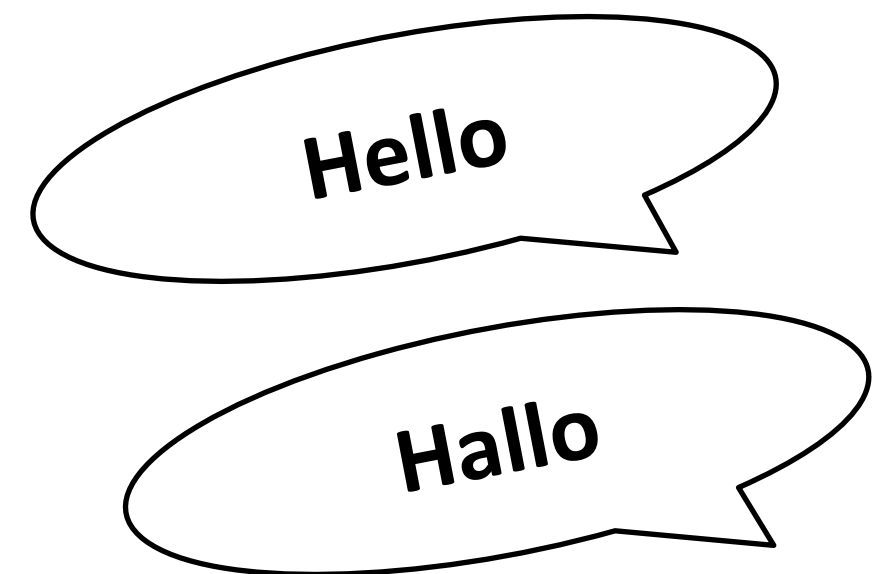
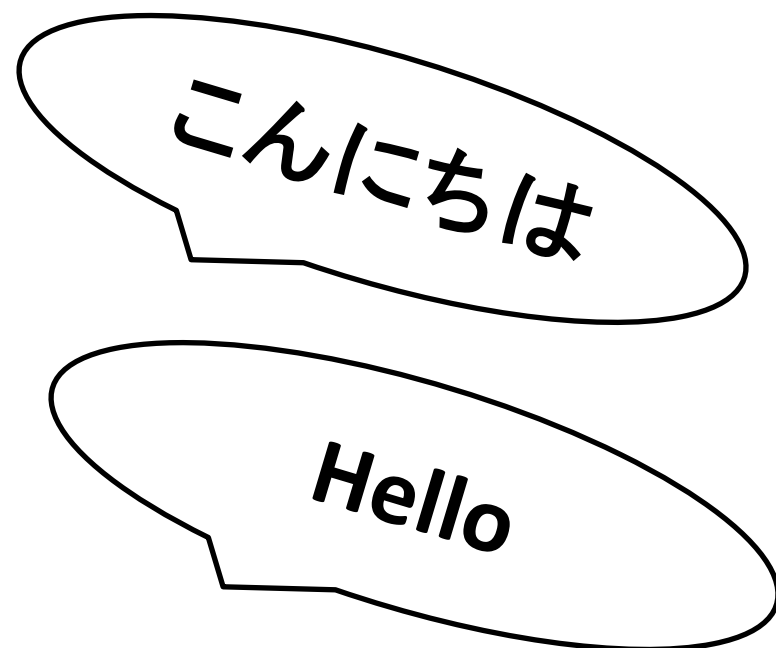
Newborns:

- ✓ recognise their mother's voice
- ✓ use the melody of language to find words in speech



Newborns:

- ✓ Can discriminate very different languages (like English and Japanese) but not very similar languages (like English and German)



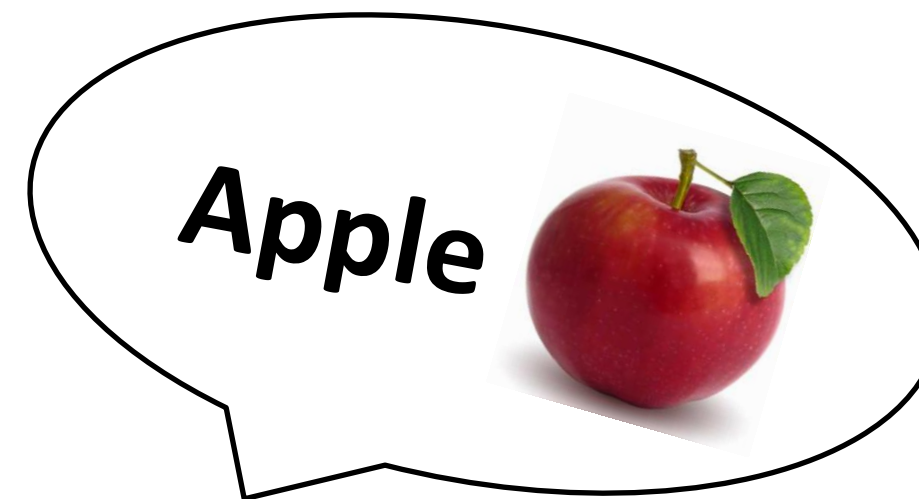
Babies:

- ✓ Watch your face when you talk to them.
- ✓ Smile and laugh when other people smile and laugh.
- ✓ Make sounds to themselves, like cooing, gurgling and babbling.



Babies

- ✓ Pay more attention to objects that are presented with language.
- ✓ Recognise their name and the names of familiar objects like 'apple' and 'shoe'.



Babies

- ✓ Understand how your mouth matches the sounds you make.
- ✓ Can tell the difference between British English and American English.



Babies

- ✓ Listen carefully and turn to someone talking on the other side of the room.
- ✓ Babble strings of sounds, like 'no-no' and 'go-go'.
- ✓ Understand that how you say words (happy or angry) means something.



Babies

- ✓ Make noises, point and look at you to get your attention.
- ✓ Show you objects to engage in conversation about the object.



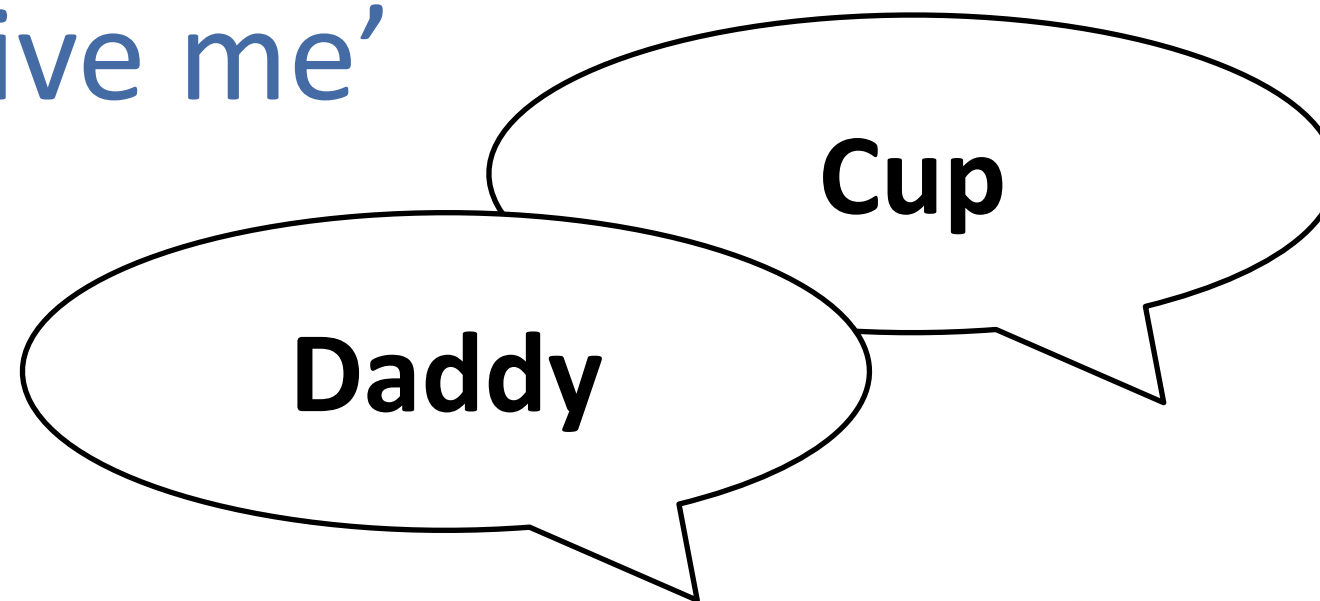
Babies

- ✓ Take turns in conversations, babbling back to an adult.
- ✓ Start to understand the meaning of common verbs (e.g. dance, kiss)



Toddlers

- ✓ Use up to 20 simple words, like 'cup', 'shoe' and 'daddy'.
- ✓ Understand simple instructions like 'kiss mummy', 'kick ball' and 'give me'



Toddlers

- ✓ Point to things when asked, like familiar people or objects.
- ✓ Start to enjoy simple pretend play, e.g. pretending to talk on the phone.
- ✓ Copy lots of the things that adults say and gestures they make.



Toddlers

- ✓ Understand between 200 and 500 words.
- ✓ Understand simple questions and instructions: 'where's your shoe?' and 'show me your belly button'.



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Toddlers

- ✓ Use a limited number of sounds in their words- often these are p, b, t, d, m and w.
- ✓ Often miss the ends of words off.



Toddlers

- ✓ Sit and listen to simple stories with pictures.
- ✓ Start to put short 2-3 word sentences together: 'bye nanny', 'more juice'.



Find out more

For more information about ages and stages of language development, visit:

<http://talkingpoint.org.uk/>