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How You Can Help Your Baby

You can start helping your baby learn early! Read this page to find out how.

Show your baby that you love him!

Showing your baby that you love him is the most important thing you can do to help him learn and grow. So use everything you've got to let your baby know that you are there, totally there!

Your baby may not hear all the nice things you say to him. Or he may miss your cooing. But show your love the same as with any other baby:

- Hug and kiss your baby
- Look at your baby with love
- Touch your baby with love
- Give your baby attention

Just looking at your face and knowing you're there can make your baby feel calm and happy.

Make faces and use gestures

Your baby can't hear your voice as much as other children. And it may be hard to keep a hearing aid on a baby for a long time. So show how you feel by making faces and using gestures.

Even if you're not used to it, use your body to express yourself when you talk to and play with your baby. The more you can make faces and use gestures, the more your baby will understand and grow.

But don't stop talking!

When we speak, we feel comfortable expressing ourselves. Most hearing people smile or frown, point or use other gestures when they talk. So communicate with your baby in a way that feels right for you.

Help your baby learn through his eyes

Babies with hearing loss take in information through their eyes. Teach your child to look around to see what's going on from an early age.

Gesture and look excited when something happens

When people come to your house, your baby may not hear the doorbell. He may not hear the excited voices asking for the baby. So you may have to show him that something has happened. When the doorbell rings, you could:

- Look at the door, and make a surprised face.
- Look at your baby, then at the door, and then back to your baby.

Pretty soon, your baby will know to look around to find out what's happening.

Read and sign to your baby

Get your baby interested in looking at things by looking at books. Sit your baby in your lap, and look together. Gesture or sign words that are related to the book. Or if you're reading out loud, turn your body so your baby can see your face when you speak.

Visit these websites

For newborn babies:

- ["Communication and Your Newborn"](http://www.kidshealth.org/parent/growth/communication/cnewborn.html)
(<http://www.kidshealth.org/parent/growth/communication/cnewborn.html>)
- ["Learning, Play and Your Newborn"](http://www.kidshealth.org/parent/growth/learning/learnnewborn.html)
(<http://www.kidshealth.org/parent/growth/learning/learnnewborn.html>)
- ["The Senses and Your Newborn"](http://www.kidshealth.org/parent/growth/senses/sensenewborn_p2.html)
(http://www.kidshealth.org/parent/growth/senses/sensenewborn_p2.html)

For babies 1- to 3-months-old

- ["Communication and Your 1- to 3-month-old"](http://www.kidshealth.org/parent/growth/communication/c13m.html)
(<http://www.kidshealth.org/parent/growth/communication/c13m.html>)
- ["Learning, Play, and Your 1- to 3-month-old"](http://www.kidshealth.org/parent/growth/learning/learn13m.html)
(<http://www.kidshealth.org/parent/growth/learning/learn13m.html>)
- ["The Senses and Your 1- to 3-month-old"](http://www.kidshealth.org/parent/growth/senses/sense13m.html)
(<http://www.kidshealth.org/parent/growth/senses/sense13m.html>)

For babies 4- to 7-months-old

- ["Communication and Your 4- to 7-month-old"](http://www.kidshealth.org/parent/growth/communication/c47m.html)
(<http://www.kidshealth.org/parent/growth/communication/c47m.html>)
- ["Learning, Play, and Your 4- to 7-month-old"](http://www.kidshealth.org/parent/growth/learning/learn47m.html)
(<http://www.kidshealth.org/parent/growth/learning/learn47m.html>)
- ["The Senses and Your 4- to 7-month-old"](http://www.kidshealth.org/parent/growth/senses/sense47m.html)
(<http://www.kidshealth.org/parent/growth/senses/sense47m.html>)

For babies 8- to 12-months-old

- ["Communication and Your 8- to 12-month-old"](http://www.kidshealth.org/parent/growth/communication/c812m.html)
(<http://www.kidshealth.org/parent/growth/communication/c812m.html>)
- ["Learning, Play and Your 8- to 12-month-old"](http://www.kidshealth.org/parent/growth/learning/learn812m.html)
(<http://www.kidshealth.org/parent/growth/learning/learn812m.html>)
- ["The Senses and Your 8- to 12-month-old"](http://www.kidshealth.org/parent/growth/senses/sense812m.html)
(<http://www.kidshealth.org/parent/growth/senses/sense812m.html>)

This page was last edited on May 27, 2003.

You can find this page online at:

<http://www.raisingdeafkids.org/growingup/baby/help.jsp>