Stanislaus County
Office of
Education

Child/Family Services

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Infants and Toddlers Are Listening and Understanding

Resource & Referral Handout

Birth-3 Months
Responds to sound - moves if they were still, becomes still if they were moving
Watches your eyes and mouth as you speak

3-6 Months
Turns eyes and head toward hidden sound and voices
Awakens or quiets to familiar voices
Coos and babbles when talked to
Looks, coos and moves to keep an adult engaged
Can discern differences in many sounds

6-12 Months
Turns head and shoulders toward familiar sounds (telephone, door opening) and voices
Looks for family members when they are named
Responds differently to a friendly or an angry tone of voice
Reacts to *No no*
Continues a "conversation" with "turn-taking"

12-18 Months :
Points to or looks at familiar objects or people on request or when they are named
Points to objects or pictures and waits for adult to name them
Responds differently to different sounds - babbles to friendly voice, cries with scolding.
Responds to simple request with action - *Go get Teddy*
Points to a few body parts when named - especially eyes, nose, mouth

18-24 Months:
Points to more body parts on request *Where's your tummy?*
Selects the named toy from a group of toys.
Follows more directions - *Show me your shoes. Give me your cup. Let's go. Give the dolly a kiss.*
Points to or looks at pictures of familiar people or objects when they are named.

CAUTION!

Middle ear infections
(Ottis Media)
Caused by colds, allergies or lying in bed with a bottle, middle ear infections create problems with hearing and language acquisition.
Intermittent hearing loss is time lost for learning language

CAUTION!

Warning about noise
Constant background noise creates problems with listening and talking. Children "switch off," "tune out" and "don't listen" when the environment is filled with background noise from TV, radio, stereo or video.
Turn the machines off, not the children.