

# Making sounds checklist

## Introduction

This list and the reaction to sounds checklist give pointers about what to look for as your baby grows to check if he/she can hear. Babies do differ in what they can do at any given age. The ages presented here are approximate only.

## Checklist

### **4 months - a baby:**

Makes soft sounds when awake.  
Gurgles and coos

### **6 months - a baby:**

Makes laughter like sounds.  
Starts to make sing-song vowel sounds (eg: a-a, muh, goo, der, aroo, adah).

### **9 months - a baby:**

Makes sounds to communicate Babbles (e.g. 'dada da', 'ma ma ma', 'ba ba ba').  
Shows pleasure in babbling loudly and tunefully.  
Starts to imitate other sounds like coughing or smacking lips.

**For parents that are waiting for a hearing test with a child aged 3 and under, please refer to the checklist:**

**12 months - a baby:**

Babbles loudly, often in a conversational-type rhythm.  
May start to use one or two recognisable words.

**15 months - a baby:**

Makes lots of speech-like sounds.  
Uses 2-6 recognisable words meaningfully (eg: 'teddy' when seeing or wanting the teddy bear).

**18 months - a baby:**

Makes speech-like sounds with conversational type rhythm when playing.  
Uses 6-20 recognisable words.  
Tries to join in nursery rhymes and songs.

**24 months - a child:**

Uses 50 or more recognisable words appropriately.  
Puts 2 or more words together to make simple sentences (for example: more milk).  
Joins in nursery rhymes and songs.  
Talks to self during play (may be incomprehensible to others).

**30 months - a child:**

Uses 200 or more recognisable words.  
Uses pronouns (e.g. I, me, you).  
Uses sentences but many will lack adult structure.  
Talks intelligibly to self during play.  
Asks questions.  
Says a few nursery rhymes.

**36 months - a child:**

Has a large vocabulary intelligible to everyone.

**Several methods can be used to test hearing depending on your child's age and development.**

**Please refer to our website for further information in preparing your child for a hearing test.**

Further information:

- [www.ndcs.org.uk](http://www.ndcs.org.uk)
- [www.nhs.uk/newbornhearing](http://www.nhs.uk/newbornhearing)
- [www.yorkhospital.nhs.uk](http://www.yorkhospital.nhs.uk) - Speech and language therapy, children's services – helpful advice sheets.