

Social and Emotional Development

As soon as your baby is born, you can start teaching her to trust, love and connect with others by building a close bond with her (see [Developing Attachment](#) and [Brain Development](#)).

1st month

- makes eye contact and smiles
- begins to trust caregiver
- cries if under or over stimulated
- may begin persistent crying (see [Crying](#))

2nd month

- studies faces
- shows personality
- smiles back at you
- cries to have needs met
- crying may be its most persistent

3rd month

- may laugh out loud
- knows the difference between parents and strangers
- stops crying when you come in the room
- persistent crying usually stops

4th month

- laughs hard when tickled
- greets caregiver
- moves arms to signal “pick me up”
- enjoys social interaction

5th month

- turns head toward speaker
- pushes away things she doesn't like

6th month

- copies facial expressions
- makes noises and movements to show moods
- may be shy or afraid of strangers
- responds to her name
- likes her reflection



BRAIN BUILDER

- Cuddle and comfort your baby when she cries or is upset.
- Smile back when she smiles and make lots of eye contact.
- Hold her, touch her and cuddle her skin-to-skin.
- Read to her.



DANGER

Shaking a baby, even for a few seconds, can lead to brain damage, blindness or even death. Make sure that everyone who cares for your baby learns to cope calmly with his crying.



DID YOU KNOW

It's not possible to spoil a new baby. Research shows that well-loved babies do better in every way. Support your child by giving her plenty of hugs and smiles and comforting her when she cries.



FAMILY STORY

My mother-in-law said I was spoiling our baby by carrying her a lot and picking her up when she fussed. But I knew this wasn't true. Paying attention to her helped her develop into a trusting and calm little girl.