

Social and Emotional Development

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

1st month

- starts developing attachment with parent or caregiver
- cries if under or over stimulated
- may begin persistent crying (see [Crying](#))
- turns head to the sound of a familiar voice

2nd month

- studies faces and makes eye contact
- 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 parent or caregiver and strangers
- stops crying when you come in the room
- persistent crying may stop

4th month

- greets parent or caregiver
- moves arms to signal “pick me up”
- is becoming more playful
- enjoys social interaction and may show preference for certain familiar people

5th month

- pushes away things they don't like

6th month

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



BRAIN BUILDER

- Cuddle and comfort your baby when they cry or are upset.
- Smile back when they smile and make lots of eye contact.
- Hold them, touch them and cuddle them skin-to-skin.
- Read to them.



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 their crying.



DID YOU KNOW?

It's not possible to spoil a new baby. Support your child by giving them plenty of hugs and smiles and comforting them when they cry.



FAMILY STORY

My family member said I was spoiling our baby by carrying them a lot and picking them up when they fussed. But I knew this wasn't true. Paying attention to them helped them develop into a trusting and calm little child.