

Language Development



Language

- Language: Form of communication
 - Spoken, written, or signed
 - Based on a system of symbols
 - Consists of the words used by a community and the rules for varying and combining them

Key Milestones in Language Development

- First year sequence:
 - Crying: can signal distress, but there are different types of cries that signal different things
 - Cooing: about 1 to 2 months, gurgling sounds that are made in the back of the throat and usually express pleasure during interaction with the caregiver
 - Babbling: In the middle of the first year, babies babble -- strings of consonant-vowel combinations, such as “ba, ba, ba”
 - Gestures: Infants start using gestures, such as showing and pointing, at about 8 to 12 months of age