

# Parenting Future Readers

No. 3 (Month 9-10)

## ***Did you know?***

Even though baby isn't talking yet, he already understands the meaning of some common words like "bye-bye," "dada," "mama" or "no." Understanding the meaning of words is called **receptive language**. By 10 months baby understands about 18 words, although each baby learns words at their own pace.

## ***Did you know?***

Baby is also starting to use gestures and sounds to communicate with people. Baby's use of **intentional communication** is a big step toward using language. For example, baby may raise her arms toward you and grunt, which may be interpreted as "pick me up." Or baby may point at the juice pitcher while making a noise, which means, "give me some juice." Parents quickly learn to understand what baby wants. Most important - baby is learning what language is all about - communicating with people!



## ***Did you know?***

Baby is learning how to draw your attention to objects to start a "conversation." For example, baby might look back and forth from an object to you, clearly signaling he is interested in "talking" about this object. Without words baby is getting you to talk about what he is interested in. This helps him learn language. What a clever baby!

## ***Did you know?***

Baby is learning language when you talk with her about the routine, everyday things you and she do together, like giving her a bath or picking out groceries at the store.

## ***Did you know?***

Baby will soon be ready to say his first "real" word. A few babies say their first word as early as 10 months, although most babies are about one-year-old.

# What You Can Do

**™ Describe** whatever you and baby are doing. For example, when you are dressing baby talk about how you put on her shirt - over her head - and put on her pants - first one leg and then the other leg. Describe your own actions as baby is watching you. "Mommy is putting the clothes in the washer so they get nice and clean."



**™ Label** things at home and on outings. For instance, when you are grocery shopping with baby point out and talk about the different foods. Tell baby what foods you are putting in your cart. "We are getting four yellow bananas and five red apples."

**™ Expand** on things by adding more information. For example, if the two of you see a doggie you might say, "See the doggie. That's a big brown doggie and the doggie is wagging his tail."

**™ Use gestures** with baby to emphasize what you are saying. For example, wave when you say goodbye or hold out your hands when you ask if baby wants to be picked up. Wait and see if baby will copy the gesture.

## ™ Gesture games

### Peek-a-boo

Cover your face with your hands. Ask, "Where's mama or dada?" Then uncover your face and say "peek-a-boo." See if baby will hide his face. Or gently cover his face with his hands and ask, "Where's baby?" Say "peek-a-boo" as he uncovers his face.

### So Big

Say, "How big is baby?" Then gently lift baby's arms up and say excitedly "So Big!" Soon baby will raise her arms all by herself when you ask, "How big is baby?"