

Alabama Early Learning Guidelines	Alabama Department of Human Resources
Self-Concept/Emotional Development	
The Child:	
Becomes aware of self as a unique individual	
Feels valued and attached to others	
Displays a wide range of feelings and emotions	
Birth - 6 Months	
As the child grows, she/he will...	
be awake and active for longer times	
begin to establish emotional attachments or "bonding" relationship with parents/family caregivers	Cries to demand attention (37, 40); Smiles at the sound of familiar voices (40, 181); Learns that crying will bring attention from caregiver (22)
express her/his needs and emotions with different cries and vocal sounds	Learns that crying will bring attention from caregiver (22); Cries when hungry, tired, overstimulated (19, 28, 31); Makes demanding cries (40); Cries to demand attention (37, 40)
Smile in response to a friendly face or voice	Responds to smiles with smiling (40, 164, 177)
coo, gurgle, and squeal when awake	Coos (28, 40, 122, 145, 157); babbles and laughs to get adult attention (40, 149, 150, 181)
stop crying when parents, family members, and/or caregivers come near	Shows attachment (responds positively) to significant adults (36, 40, 169, 173); Distinguishes voices of important, familiar people (40, 174)
entertain self by playing with fingers, hands, and toes	Discovers hands and feet are extensions of self (23, 92, 94, 97, 100, 116, 122, 165)
develop an awareness of self as a separate individual from others	Discovers hands and feet are extensions of self (23, 92, 94, 97, 100, 116, 122, 165); Responds to own reflection in mirror (23, 114, 122, 177); Responds to own name (31)
seek attention of parent or caregiver by using body movements and/or vocal sounds	Learns that crying will bring attention from caregiver (22); Cries to demand attention (37, 40); Babbles and laughs to get adult attention (40, 149, 150, 181); Cries when hungry, tired, overstimulated (19, 28, 31)
imitate sounds, facial expressions, and actions of others	Responds to smiles with smiling (40, 164, 177)
spend less time crying, and will laugh out loud	Babbles and laughs to get adult attention (40, 149, 150, 181); Cries when hungry, tired, overstimulated (19, 28, 31)
6 - 12 Months	
As the child grows, she/he will...	
cry when she/he needs help	Express emotions (happiness, sadness, anger, and surprise) through gestures, sounds or facial expressions (40, 165)

begin to hold her/his own bottle	Addressed on page 19
beginning to try to feed herself/himself	Addressed on page 19
want to hold and try to use her/his drinking cup	Imitates older siblings or peers (40, 170)
play	Explores environment (22, 40, 44, 53, 54, 90, 112, 113, 169, 177, 189); Play games with adults and older children (40, 134, 165, 169, 173, 178, 182); Show signs of teasing adults (40, 174)
have emotional attachments to particular people	Shows attachment to familiar adults (41); feels anxiety on separation from familiar adults (separation anxiety) (37, 40)
become familiar with different types of sounds, tones of voices, and types of music	Can distinguish voice tones and emotions (40, 182)
indicate her/his wants through movements and sounds	Express emotions (happiness, sadness, anger, and surprise) through gestures, sounds or facial expressions (40, 165); Uses gestures and actions intentionally (31, 150, 159); Gestures or points to communicate (40)
respond to her/his own image in a mirror	Responds to own reflection in mirror (23, 114, 122, 177)
explore her/his environment	Explores environment (22, 40, 44, 53, 54, 90, 112, 113, 169, 177, 189); Play games with adults and older children (40, 134, 165, 169, 173, 178, 182)
12 -18 Months	
As the child grows, she/he will...	
start to move freely	Explores environment (22, 40, 44, 53, 54, 90, 112, 113, 169, 177, 189)
ask for what she/he wants through sounds and motions	Express emotions (happiness, sadness, anger, and surprise) through gestures, sounds or facial expressions (40, 165); Uses gestures and actions intentionally (31, 150, 159); Gestures or points to communicate (40)
begin to express that diaper needs changing	Shows interest in toilet training (16, 78)
be able to sit still for a short while	Shows increasing ability to control own behavior (35, 41); attention span (57, 66)
try to achieve a sense of self-identity	Demonstrate confidence (104); Shows pride in accomplishments (38)
become more independent	Explores environment (22, 40, 44, 53, 54, 90, 112, 113, 169, 177, 189); Play games with adults and older children (40, 134, 165, 169, 173, 178, 182); Expresses emotions (happiness, sadness, anger, and surprise) through gestures, sounds, or facial expressions (40, 165); Demonstrates confidence (104)

start to show different social emotions, such as affection, jealousy, anger, and sympathy	Expresses emotions (happiness, sadness, anger, and surprise) through gestures, sounds, or facial expressions (40, 165); Can distinguish voice tones and emotions (40, 182); Feels anxiety on separation from familiar adults (separation anxiety) (37, 40)
better control her/his own behaviors	Shares toys or possessions (40); Can distinguish voice tones and emotions (40, 182); Understand the meaning of "no" but often resists directions and must be physically removed (40)
18 - 24 Months	
As the child grows, she/he will...	
start to help when washing her/his hands	Washes face and hands (38, 41, 147)
be able to eat and drink with only little spilling	Feed self (13,16, 91)
be able to dress self in simple clothing	Dresses self (16, 124, 147)
choose toys to play with and help pick up toys	Explores environment (22, 40, 44, 53, 43, 90, 112, 113, 169, 177, 189); Plays games with adults and older children (40, 134, 165, 169, 173, 178, 182)
let you know when she/he needs to use the toilet	Shows interest in toilet training (16, 78)
recognize when people are feeling happy, sad, angry, or scared	Can distinguish between voice tones and emotions (40, 182); shows signs of teasing adults (40, 174);
show interest in discovering and learning new things	Imitates older siblings or peers (40, 170); Is interested in the outside world (41, 175, 179)
show affection for you and others that she/he knows	Shows attachment to familiar adults (41); Looks for "home base" or significant adult during difficult situations, for comfort and approval (41, 191); Addressed on page 38
show different emotions and moods	Addressed on pages 38, 39, 59, 65
become aware of her/his own feelings	Shows pride in accomplishments, especially physically (38, 41, 171); Shows increasing ability to cope with stress (41); Looks for "home base" or significant adult during difficult situations, for comfort and approval (41, 191)
2 Years	
As the child grows, she/he will...	
be able to eat and drink with limited spilling	Feed self (13,16, 91)
choose toys and begin to put them away when asked to do so	Participates in new and unfamiliar activities with the help of trusted adults (47, 191); Plays next to other children, sharing occasionally (41, 91, 167); Shows respect for other people and possessions occasionally (41, 167, 179); Addressed on pages 175 and 200
be able to get own water	Show independence in self-help skills (166, 212); Addressed on pages 50 and 71
have "accidents" when toilet-trained	Shows interest in toilet training (16, 78)

change mind and moods quickly	Shows increasing ability to control own behavior (35, 41); Shows increasing ability to cope with stress (41); Identifies and talks about personal feelings (41, 151, 184); Begins to express feelings with words (31, 151)
sometimes be able to make choices	Identifies and talks about personal feelings (41, 151, 184); Addressed on page 175
sometimes want to hold onto the "old", rather than try the "new"	Participates in new and unfamiliar activities with the help of trusted adults (47, 191); Addressed on pages 68, 83, 84
sometimes respond to what you ask her/him to do and sometimes do the opposite	Follows 1-2 step directions from adults (24, 128); Shows respect for other people and possessions occasionally (41, 167, 179); Knows some rules but cannot follow them consistently (41); Shows increasing ability to control own behavior (35, 41)
enjoy playing	Plays next to other children, sharing occasionally (41, 91, 167); Is interested in the outside world (41, 175, 179)
enjoy social interaction	Shows respect for other people and possessions occasionally (41, 167, 179); Plays next to other children, sharing occasionally (41, 91, 167)
display aggressive behaviors, such as hitting, biting, and shoving	Shows respect for other people and possessions occasionally (41, 167, 179); Knows some rules but cannot follow them consistently (41); Shows increasing ability to control own behavior (35, 41); Addressed on page 203
3 Years	
As the child grows, she/he will...	
be friendly, laugh often, and be eager to please	Likes to be silly (42, 167); Seeks attention and approval (42)
have occasional nightmare and fear of the dark	Addressed on page 206
often talk to self	Creates imaginary friends (24); Plays along (39, 40)
show affection toward children who are younger or get hurt	Understands others' perspectives (41, 176); Expresses feelings and emotions with words (39, 41); Is sensitive to the feelings of others (42)
sometimes have a special security blanket, stuffed animal, or toy for comfort	
need affection, support and comfort when she/he is afraid, hurt or sad	Seeks attention and approval (42); Addressed on page 39
want to do for herself/himself	Shows independence (39, 41, 44); Expresses feelings and emotions with words (39, 41)
possibly have difficulty adjusting to being away from parents	Expresses feelings and emotions with words (39, 41); Addressed on page 39
4 Years	
As the child grows, she/he will...	
sometimes become physical/aggressive when angry	Addressed on pages 203-204

show pride in accomplishments	Addressed on page 39
often seem selfish and unable to understand taking turns	Understand some limits and rules (42); Addressed on pages 144, 196, 205
demand doing many things for self	Shows increasing responsibility (42)
show very different emotions within a short period of time	Shows increasing ability to control own behavior (35, 41); Expresses feelings and emotions with words (39, 41); Addressed on pages 35 and 39
show jealousy of others who seem to be taking an adult's attention away from her/him	Addressed on page 35
desire to please adults	Seeks attention and approval (42)
enjoy being silly/playful	Role-plays (42, 176); Likes to be silly and make others laugh (42, 167); Engages in group play (24, 125)
5 Years	
As the child grows, she/he will...	
show many different feelings	Shows strong emotions (42); Expresses feelings and emotions with words (39, 41)
start to understand the feelings of others	Is sensitive to the feelings of others (42); Understands others' perspective (41, 176)
often be able to express feelings in words	Expresses feelings and emotions with words (39)
take full responsibility for using the toilet	Addressed on page 14
be caring and affectionate, especially toward injured children, younger children, and animals	Understands others' perspectives (41, 176); Is sensitive to the feelings of others (42)
have better self-control of emotions	Addressed on page 39
dress self completely, learn to tie shoes, and sometimes notice when clothing is on the wrong side	Is self-directed (42); Learns to tie shoes (17); Addressed on page 14

enjoy responsibility and have a strong need to feel accepted and powerful	Shows independence (39, 44); Is self-directed (42)
plan and carry out activities and projects independently	Plays with peers, sharing ideas and toys (42, 180, 184); Shows independence (39, 44); Develops elaborate play themes (125)
Social Development	
The child will:	
Develop trusting relationships with nurturing adults	
Show interest in peers	
Demonstrate caring and cooperation	
Try out roles and relationships through interactions	
Birth - 6 Months	
As the child grows, she/he will...	
make babbling sounds	Coos (28, 40, 122, 145, 157); Babbles and laughs to get adult attention (40, 149, 150, 181)
look for person who is talking	Looks and listens for purpose (36, 37, 40); Tracks moving persons or objects (40)
enjoy familiar routines	Addressed on page 37
reach out to familiar people	Shows sense of trust (37, 40); cries when hungry, tired, overstimulated (19, 28, 31); Makes demanding cries (40)
become more outgoing and social	Babbles and laughs to get adult attention (40, 149, 150, 181); Smiles at strangers (40); Smiles at the sound of familiar voices (40, 181); Responds to smiling with smiling (40, 177)
become upset if toys or other objects are taken away	Shows interest in manipulating toys and object (20, 23); Anticipates events (23); Makes demanding cries (40) Cries to demand attention (37, 40)
Smile in response to a friendly face or voice	Responds to smiling with smiling (40); Babbles and laughs to get adult attention (40, 149, 150, 181)
usually stop crying when picked up and held	Shows attachment (responds positively) to significant adults (36, 40, 169, 173); Shows sense of trust (40, 66, 168, 173); Learns that crying will bring attention from caregiver 22)
beginning to develop a sense of security and trust with parents and caregivers	Shows attachment (responds positively) to significant adults (36, 40, 169, 173); Shows sense of trust (40, 66, 168, 173); Learns that crying will bring attention from caregiver 22)
imitate, maintain, or avoid interactions	Coos (28, 40, 122, 145, 157); Responds to smiles with smiling (40, 177); Cries when hungry, tired, overstimulated (19, 28, 31)
show individual responses to different people and situations	Smiles at the sound of familiar voices (40, 181); Reacts to human voice and human heartbeat (28, 31)
respond to her/his name and caregiver's actions	Responds to own name (31); Reacts to human voice and human heartbeat (28, 31)
respond to self in mirror	Responds to own reflection in mirror (23, 114, 122, 177)

6 - 12 Months	
As the child grows, she/he will...	
recognize and bond with primary caregivers	Distinguishes voices of important, familiar people (37, 40); Feels anxiety on separation from familiar adults (separation anxiety) (37, 40); Distinguish voices of important, familiar people (40)

recognize familiar people and may be shy of strangers	Feels anxiety in the presence of strangers (stranger anxiety) (40)
begin to respond to more than one familiar person at a time	Distinguishes voices of important, familiar people (37, 40); Distinguish voices of important, familiar people (40); Plays games with adults and older children (40, 134, 165, 169, 173, 178, 182)
begin to be sociable by initiating interactions with other children and adults	Plays games with adults and older children (40, 134, 165, 169, 173,178,182); engages in more intentional play (23
show affection	Shows attachment to familiar adults (41); Addressed on page 153
grab caregiver's hand or leg when frightened, or look at caregiver for reassurance	Feels anxiety on separation from familiar adults (separation anxiety) (37, 40); Shows attachment to familiar adults (41)
identify family members, friends, and pets	Shows attachment to familiar adults (41); Distinguishes voices of important, familiar people (40, 174); Can distinguish voice tones and emotions (40, 182)
12 - 18 Months	
As the child grows, she/he will...	
be sociable but able to play alone for a short time	Enjoys playing next to other children (parallel play) (38, 40); Plays games with adults and older children (40, 134, 165, 169, 173, 178, 182)
imitate the actions and activities of others	Imitates older siblings or peers (40, 170)
show affectionate responses and begin social interactions	Shares toys or possessions (40); Can distinguish voice tones and emotions (40, 182)
enjoy listening to and making music, dancing, and singing	Claps hands with enjoyment (16, 100); Confidence (104); Addressed on page 59, 62, and 68
begin to achieve a sense of self-identity	Demonstrates confidence (104); Recognizes own image in mirror (23, 122); Speaks in jargon or nonsense phrases (31); Understands and responds to simple directions (31, 158); Imitates older siblings (40, 170); Shows signs of teasing adults (40, 174)
follow simple directions	Understands the meaning of "no" but often resists directions and must be physically removed (40); Follows simple commands from adults or older children (23, 114, 134); Understands and responds to simple directions (31, 158)

begin to be eager and want to do more in her/his surroundings	Tracks a moving toy and retrieves it when partially hidden (23, 118); Practices cause and effect, such as closing doors (21, 23, 113, 118); Enjoys playing next to other children (parallel play) (40); Focus on some activities of interest for several minutes at a time (47, 191); Takes initiative, such as looking for missing toy (47, 192); Sows creativity by using objects in new ways (47, 190)
begin to briefly wait for responses to her/his requests	Understands and responds to simple directions (31, 158); Speaks in jargon or nonsense phrases (31); Shares toys or possessions (40)
18 - 24 Months	
As the child grows, she/he will...	

mostly play next to, but not with other children	Addressed on page 38 and 59
engage in make-believe or dramatic play	Uses imagination in dramatic play (47, 191)
learn to seek help caregivers, if needed	Looks for "home bases" or significant adult during difficult situation, for comfort and approval (41, 191); Shows increasing ability to cope with stress (41)
show tremendous curiosity about people and things in their surroundings	Participates in new and unfamiliar activities with the help of trusted adults (47, 191); Points, gestures, or asks "what's that" when curious about something (47)
alternate between clinging to parents and caregivers or resisting them	Initiates separation from caregivers (41); Shows attachment for "home base" or significant adult during difficult situations, for comfort and approval (41, 191); Show signs of stress when family members initiate separation (41)
offer toys to other children, but usually be possessive of playthings	Addressed on page 38 and 59
display aggressive behaviors, such as hitting, biting, shoving, and grabbing toys	Addressed on page 203-204
2 Years	
As the child grows, she/he will...	
use more imagination	Pretends to read (23, 124); Creates imaginary friends (24); engages in more pretend play (23, 124)
enjoy being with other children, but may use unacceptable social behavior	Plays next to other children, sharing occasionally (41, 91, 167); Shows respect for other people and possessions occasionally (41, 167, 179); Shows increasing ability to control own behavior (35, 41); Addressed on 200-204
imitate adults' activities	Addressed on pages 67 and 209
enjoy small group activities	Plays next to other children, sharing occasionally (41, 91, 167)
Develop trusting relationships with caregivers	Participate in new and unfamiliar activities with the help of a trusted adult (47, 191) Addressed on page 35
show interest in children of the same age	Names objects or people of interest (32, 142); Plays next to children, sharing occasionally (41, 91, 167)
begin to cooperate with less physical aggressiveness	Plays next to other children, sharing occasionally (41, 91, 167); Shows respect for other people and possessions occasionally (41, 167, 179); Shows increasing ability to control own behavior (35, 41)
3 Years	
As the child grows, she/he will...	

sometimes take turns, but will not always be willing to do so	Takes turns (41, 172); Shows respect for other people and possessions occasionally (41, 167, 179); Shows increasing ability to control own behavior (35, 41); Understands others' perspectives(41, 176); Approaches situations with increasing flexibility (47)
join in simple games and group activities	Engages in fantasy play, making up plots (24); Plays with other children (39, 41, 167, 172, 176, 180, 184, 212); Takes turns (41, 172); Engages in pretend play (42, 176)
observe other children playing and may join in for a short time	Addressed on page 39
use objects in pretend play	Uses props to symbolize real objects(24); Engages in fantasy play, making up plots (24); Engages in pretend play (42, 176); Approaches situations with increasing flexibility (47); Invents new purposes for objects (47, 190)
become defensive of toys and other possessions	Plays alone (39, 41); show respect for people and possessions occasionally (41, 167, 179); Increased cooperation (64, 218)
sit and listen to stories up to ten minutes at a time	Enjoys books (32, 161); Tells stories (143); Increased attention span (39, 62, 66, 180, 185); Enjoy books and get a sense of how books work (161); Addressed on page 205
not bother others and dislike being bothered by others while listening to stories	Addressed on page 204 and 205
engage in make-believe play	Uses props to symbolize real objects(24); Engages in fantasy play, making up plots (24); Engages in pretend play (42, 176); Approaches situations with increasing flexibility (47); Invents new purposes for objects (47, 190)
begin making friends	Plays with other children (39, 41, 167, 172, 176, 180, 184, 212); likes to be silly and make people laugh (42, 167); seeks attention and approval (42)
enjoy adult attention	Seeks attention and approval (42)
enjoy sitting with arms around friends, or holding hands	Addressed on page 39
4 Years	
As the child grows, she/he will...	
be outgoing, friendly, and overly enthusiastic at times	Makes friends (42, 176); Engage in group play (42); Develop elaborate play themes (24, 125)
sometimes have imaginary playmates or companions	Creates imaginary friends (24)
boast, exaggerate, and make up stories	Understanding of the difference between reality and fantasy Addressed on page 39; Retell a story in sequence (32, 156)
cooperate with others and participate in group activities	Engages in group play (42); Makes friends (42, 176); Shows increasing patience (42)
enjoy make-believe activities and role-playing	Role-plays (42, 176); Addressed on page 30, 64, 125; Purposefully explore new things or ideas (194)

rely more on verbal expression than physical aggression	Uses language to control and give directions (32); Uses language to say what he feels, wants, and needs (33)
engage in name-calling and teasing	Addressed on page 203
develop close friendships with playmates	Makes friends (42, 176); Play with peers 184
5 Years	
As the child grows, she/he will...	
enjoy friendships and often have one or two special playmates	Plays with peers, sharing ideas and toys (42, 180, 184); Sis sensitive to the feelings of others (42); Develop friendships (176)
often play cooperatively	Play with peers, sharing ideas and toys (42, 180, 184); Offers ideas and suggestions (48, 196)
participate in group play and shared activities	Play with peers, sharing ideas and toys (42, 180, 184); Offers ideas and suggestions (48, 196)
enjoy telling jokes and making people laugh	Makes up stories (33)
often follow directions and carry out responsibilities	Plays simple games with rules (42); Follows and makes simple rules (42)
continue to ask many questions	Ask questions and seek answers (156); Purposefully explore new things and ideas (194); Interest in and use words that are new or unfamiliar in conversations and play (addressed on page 66)
boast about accomplishments	
argue about many things and have a strong sense of "fairness"	Argues, reasons, and uses "because" (33); Use language to say what he feels, wants, and needs (33); Follow and make simple rules (42)
Understand various family roles, jobs, rules, and relationships	Role Play (176); Develop an awareness and appreciation of family cultural stories and traditions (addressed on page 152)
be independent, yet still want and need help	Uses language to say what he feels, wants, and needs (33); Converses easily with adults (33); shows strong emotions (42)
enjoy pretend-play	Make up stories (33); Understanding of the difference between reality and fantasy (addressed on page 39)
Language and Literacy Development	
The child will:	
Respond to verbal and non-verbal communication.	
Communicate through language and gestures	
Identify with a home language	
Birth - 6 Months	
As the child grows, she/he will...	

communicate by blinking, moving body part, stopping a movement, shifting eyes about or making a startle response	Learn that crying will bring attention from caregiver (22); Cries when hungry, tired, overstimulated (19, 28, 31); Coos in response to adults' speech (28, 31, 145, 157); Makes demanding cries (40); Cries to demand attention (37, 40); Babbles and laughs to get adult attention (40, 149, 150, 181)
show a preference for certain sounds, especially for human speech	Shows attachment (responds positively) to significant adults (36, 40, 169, 173); Smiles at the sound of familiar voices (40, 181)
turn head in response to sound from either side	Tracks moving persons or objects (40); Looks and listens for purpose (40); React to loud noises (15, 88)
hear and make different sounds	Coos (28, 40, 122, 145, 157); Babbles and laughs to get adult attention (40, 149, 150, 181); Makes demanding cries (40); Babbles consonant sounds, such as "da-da-da" (31, 149); Makes squealing and gurgling sounds (31, 140, 149, 152); Laughs out loud (31); Reacts to human voice and human heartbeat (28, 31, 112, 140, 157); Reacts to loud noises (15, 88)
make sounds other than crying	Coos (28, 40, 122, 145, 157); Babbles and laughs to get adult attention (40, 149, 150, 181); Babbles consonant sounds, such as "da-da-da" (31, 149); Makes squealing and gurgling sounds (31, 140, 149, 152); Laughs out loud (31)
communicate by crying in different ways when hungry, hurt, scared, or uncomfortable	Cries when hungry, tired, overstimulated (19, 28, 31); Makes demanding cries (40); Cries to demand attention (37, 40)
react to sounds and make sounds by cooing and blowing bubbles	Reacts to human voice and human heartbeat (28, 31, 112, 140, 157); Coos in response to adults' speech (28, 31, 145, 157); Babbles and laughs to get adult attention (40, 149, 150, 181)
make sounds (coo) and move body when engaging in a face-to-face exchange with parents and others	Coos (28, 40, 122, 145, 157); Coos in response to adults' speech (28, 31, 145, 157); Smiles at the sound of familiar voices (30, 181); Smiles at strangers (40); Babbles and laughs to get adult attention (40, 149, 150, 181)
search for source of sounds in immediate surroundings	Looks and listens for purpose (36, 37, 40)
laugh out loud	Laugh out loud (31)
6 - 12 Months	
As the child grows, she/he will...	
imitate some non-speech sounds	Experiments with vocalizations to include longer more varied sounds; Babbles sounds, such as "goo" and "gaa" (31, 149); Uses intonations in sounds (31); Imitates sounds (28, 31, 145, 183)
begin babble (baby talk) to communicate	Babbles sounds, such as "goo" and "gaa" (31, 150); Says one word or more (31, 158)
turn head when called by name or when familiar objects or persons are named	Responds to own name (31, 149, 153); Distinguishes voices of important, familiar people (40, 174)

beginning to repeat sounds or words of more than one syllable that have meaning to her/him	Experiments with vocalizations to include longer more varied sounds; Babbles sounds, such as "goo" and "gaa" (31, 149); Uses intonations in sounds (31)
begin to say recognizable words	Says one word or more (31, 158)
begin to communicate and name many things	Wave bye-bye (23); Says one word or more (31, 158); Gesture or point to communicate (31, 146, 150, 153, 159)
listen to conversations and understand what is being said	Can distinguish voice tones and emotions (40, 182); Responds to "no,no" (23); Understands more words every day (receptive vocabulary) (31)
show emotions by making different sounds and expressions	Express emotions (happiness, sadness, anger, and surprise) through gestures, sounds, or facial expressions (40, 165)
notice pictures	Listens to songs, stories, or rhymes with interest (31, 14, 157, 158)
be aware of daily routines and activities	Addressed on pages 37 and 38
12 - 18 Months	
As the child grows, she/he will...	
babble words and try using words to describe actions	Uses sound to stand for more than one gesture or object (31); Has a vocabulary of three to fifty words (31)
beginning to name familiar objects and their owners	Intentionally says "Mama" and/or "Dada" (31); Uses one sound to stand for more than one gesture or object (31); Has vocabulary of three to fifty words (31)
begin to name and point out familiar pictures in a book	Enjoys books, especially turning pages (23)
show increased interest in music and rhythm	Claps hands with enjoyment (16, 100); Addressed on pages 68 and 104

show increased interest in conversational turn-taking	Speaks in jargon or nonsense phrases (31); Understands and responds to simple directions (31, 158); Understands many more words than he or she can say (31); Has a vocabulary of three to fifty words (31); Begin to imitate (183)
begin to point to and name body parts and learn about self	Addressed on pages 57, 99, 217
begin to understand when asked to do something	Follows simple commands from adults or older children (23, 114, 134); Understands and responds to simple directions (31, 158)
respond to simple questions with "yes" or "no" and/or appropriate head movements	Uses gestures and actions intentionally (31, 150, 159); Demonstrates confidence (104); Understands and responds to simple directions (31, 158)
use one word questions to ask for or name something	Uses one sound to stand for more than one gesture or object (31); Speaks in jargon or nonsense phrases (31)