

## **Infant Milestones Language and Literacy**

### **1. Understands Spoken Words (Receptive Language)**

- A. Responds to frequently spoken words
  - 1. Turns head toward a familiar voice
  - 2. Smiles when their name is called
  - 3. Uses actions to show understanding of words such as reaching for a bottle if asked “Are you hungry?” or waving when an adult says “Bye-bye”
  
- B. Follows simple directions and requests
  - 1. Responds to a simple one-step command, such as “Open wide for some yummy peas” or “Stop!” when approaching danger
  - 2. Responds to indirect requests such as crawling to get a book on the floor if asked, “Would you like to read a book with me?”
  - 3. Hands someone an object that is asked for, such as “May I see your teddy bear?”

### **2. Expresses Thoughts with Sounds, Words, and Gestures (Expressive Language)**

- A. Uses motions and gestures to begin to communicate nonverbally
  - 1. Uses physical signals to send a message such as reaching for something or raising arms to be lifted
  - 2. Uses facial expressions to send a message
  
- B. Uses sounds to communicate
  - 1. Uses different cries when hungry or tired
  - 2. Babbles
  - 3. Repeats sounds such as “da-da” or “ma-ma”
  - 4. Makes sounds while pointing at something
  - 5. May say a few “words” family members can understand
  
- C. Uses sounds in social situations
  - 1. Makes sounds back and forth with an adult
  - 2. Makes happy or unhappy sounds in response to another person’s actions
  
- D. Begins to express self freely and creatively uses sounds
  - 1. Repeats sounds that please them
  - 2. Makes sounds and motions to music

### **3. Foundations for Reading**

#### **A. Begins to attend to stories**

1. Smiles when sitting in an adult's lap while a story is read to them
2. Looks at an adult who is telling a story with puppets

#### **B. Explores books as objects**

1. Looks at the cover of a book
2. Watches as another child or adult reads a picture book
3. Explores a book by chewing on it
4. Reaches for a familiar book
5. Opens and closes a book
6. Tries to turn the pages of a book

#### **C. Becomes aware of pictures**

1. Looks at large, colorful pictures
2. Begins to point to pictures in a cardboard, cloth or vinyl book