

Become a Detective for your child's messages

Worksheet

How does your child communicate?

Review the list below and ask yourself, "Does my child do this?" and "In what circumstances?" Check mark any that you notice and jot a little note about it.

✓	How my child communicates	What I notice and when I notice it:
	Cries or screams	
	Smiles	
	Moves their body (kicks or wiggles)	
	Changes facial expression	
	Makes sounds	
	Reaches	
	Looks at me	
	Looks at what he wants	
	Points	
	Imitates sounds	
	Looks at what he wants then looks at me	
	Takes me by the hand to what he wants	
	Uses gestures, such as waving for bye-bye	
	Uses sounds that stand for words	
	Brings me something	
	Turns their head toward something interesting	
	Makes a questioning sound	
	Stands still to listen	
	Raises arms to be picked up	

Why does your child communicate?

Review the list below and ask yourself, "Does my child do this?" and "In what circumstances?"
Check mark any that you notice and jot a little note about it.

✓	Why my child communicates	What I notice and when I notice it:
	Let me know they're hungry	
	Let me know they're tired	
	To respond to something interesting, such as my voice	
	To protest or refuse something	
	To get attention	
	To request something	
	To show me something they are interested in	
	To greet someone	
	To say goodbye	
	To show off	
	To follow directions	
	To answer a question	
	To tell someone about something (comment)	
	To ask a question	

Does your child make a sound, gesture, or recognize any of the following?

Here's a handy list of common first words to help you tune into your child's messages and interests. Do they react to these words? Do they "say" something like "eee," "goo," or "bah-bah." Note it here:

✓	Word	Expression, sound, or gesture I notice:
	mama/mommy	
	dada/daddy	
	child's name	
	favorite toy	
	baby	
	pet's name	
	bye bye	
	night-night	
	allgone	
	peekaboo	
	no	
	yes	
	stop	
	mine	
	up	
	down	
	more	
	ball	
	book	
	truck	

✓	Word	Expression, sound, or gesture I notice:
	ouch	
	hot	
	coat	
	hat	
	shoes	
	socks	
	water	
	cup	
	spoon	
	apple	
	banana	
	cookie	
	cheese	
	cracker	
	milk	
	cat/kitty	
	dog/doggie	
	bird	
	bunny	
	foot	
	hand	
	nose	