



Earliest Interactions

Regardless of your child's hearing levels, there are a variety of interactions that will set the stage for future language development.

For example, your child may **INTERACT** with you:

- Verbally: crying, cooing, babbling vocally
- Physically: touching, cuddling, reaching
- Visually: smiling, looking, gesturing, using facial expressions, babbling with hands

Your responses to these interactions can encourage connections to continue. These interactions will become the foundations for your child's communication and language development.

For example, you can **RESPOND** and encourage interactions by:

- Engaging in face-to-face connections
- Narrating throughout daily routines such as feeding, bathing, diaper changes, etc. (i.e. Saying or signing- "Let's change your diaper", etc.)
- Using actions, facial expressions, or words/signs
- Following your child's lead by noticing their gaze, smile, point, etc.
- Commenting on things of interest in the environment

Development of thinking, knowledge, social skills, literacy, and communication are highly dependent on these interactions.

Early interactions serve as the foundation to **DEVELOP**:

- Knowledge
- Thinking
- Social Skills
- Literacy
- Communication

Exploring Resources:

[Smiling, Eye Contact, and Early Development](#)

[Building Conversations](#)

[Respond to Your Baby](#)

[Serve & Return Interaction Shapes Brain Circuitry](#)

