

LET'S READ AT 9 MONTHS!

This is what it looks like when we read:

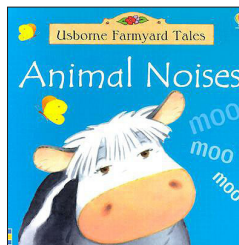
- I'll laugh and gurgle - books are fun!
- I know how pages turn and I might try to do it myself!
- Patting the pictures helps me connect with the story.

I learn from books when you:

- Point to and talk about what's on the page.
- Pause to let me study all I see.
- Encourage my noises and movements.

Let's read these books together, too!

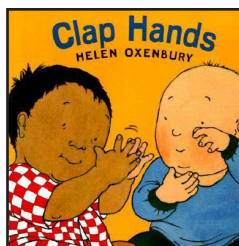
Give me sturdy books to let me fine-tune my motor skills. I like seeing familiar characters and games in my favorite stories.



Animal Noises

by Stephen Cartwright

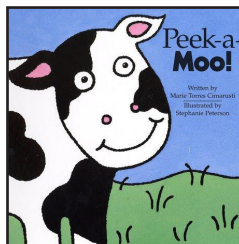
Simple illustrations depict familiar animals and the sounds they make.



Clap Hands

by Helen Oxenbury

Gentle pictures of babies doing favorite movements.



Peek-a-Moo

Marie Torres Cimarusti

Giggle along as barnyard friends play peek-a-boo in their own special way.

You can check out these and other great books in the Monroe County Public Library's Children's area!

your child @TM

highlights of what's happening
at this stage of your child's development...

6 to 12 months

By the end of your baby's first year of life, she might already be crawling and trying to take her first steps. Remember that a warm, responsive and dependable adult caregiver is the most essential ingredient to her healthy development.

your child's health

Make sure your child's immunizations are up-to-date. Typical immunizations at this age will include:

- DTaP (diphtheria, tetanus and whooping cough)
- Hib (protects your child against meningitis)
- Prevnar (pneumococcal)

Other than the flu vaccine, vaccines do not usually occur at the nine month visit, unless your child has missed earlier vaccinations.

The Well Visit

Your baby will probably have well visits at six months and again at nine months.

Sleep

At this stage, your baby still needs two or possibly three naps a day — a morning, afternoon, and late day nap. Put your baby down to sleep for the night between 6 and 8 pm, and expect her to sleep 11 to 13 hours. However, even as late as eight or nine months, she may still wake for a night feeding — especially if she's being breastfed.

take note...

According to the American Academy of Pediatrics, you should let your doctor know if your baby:

...at 6 months:

- Seems very stiff, with tight muscles.
- Seems very floppy, like a rag doll.
- Refuses to cuddle.
- Doesn't seem to enjoy being around people.
- Cannot sit with help.
- Does not laugh or squeal.
- Does not actively reach for objects.

...at 9 months:

- Drags one side of body while crawling (for over a month).
- Does not point to objects or pictures.
- Does not search for objects that are hidden while he watches.

keep in mind...

- If your baby doesn't like a new food, don't give up — re-introduce it in a few days. Often a baby needs to try a food several times before he will eat it.
- Avoid foods that could cause choking such as whole grapes, popcorn, uncooked carrots, hot dogs, nuts or hard candy.

Nutrition

Although you might have introduced cereals to your baby over the past few months, she should still be drinking about 24 ounces of breast milk or formula per day.

Once your baby adjusts to cereal, move on to new, single-ingredient foods — fruits and vegetables first; then introduce protein. Experiment with mashed or pureed foods, but remember to introduce only one food type at a time for at least two to three days to detect allergies and sensitivities.

At around nine months, your baby should eat three meals a day while still receiving breast milk or formula. Serve soft, easily gummed and digestible finger foods cut into safe, bite-sized pieces. He'll love small pieces of cheese, steamed vegetables and fruit or Cheerios.[®] Avoid foods that need to be chewed. He should also begin drinking from a sippy cup, and by his first birthday (or soon after), he should be weaned from the bottle.

your child's growth and development

American Academy
of Pediatrics



DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN[™]

Reviewed and approved by the
American Academy of Pediatrics

Physically

At 6–9 months, your baby will probably:

- Sit alone without support.
- Reach for a cup or spoon when being fed.
- Transfer objects from one hand to the other.

At 9–12 months, your baby will probably:

- Crawl well.
- Pull herself to a standing position.

Intellectually

At 6–9 months, your baby will probably:

- Make noises to show displeasure or satisfaction.
- Look for a ball rolled out of sight.

At 9–12 months, your baby will probably:

- Play *Pat-a-Cake*.
- Dance or bounce to music.
- Say her first word.
- Clap hands, wave goodbye.

Sources: *Your Baby's First Year* and *Caring for Your Baby and Young Child*, American Academy of Pediatrics, Steven P. Shelov, MD, FAAP, editor in chief; *Understanding Children*, Civitas and Richard Saul Wurman; *KidBasics*, Civitas; *Healthy Sleep, Happy Child*, Marc Weissbluth, MD.

Civitas thanks **Parents as Teachers**, an international early childhood parent education and family support program, for their ongoing support.

your child @™

6 to 12 months

your child's growth and development (continued)

Socially and Emotionally

At 6–9 months, your baby will probably:

- Try to talk to image of self in mirror.
- Become distressed if a toy is taken away.
- Respond to own name and recognize family members' names.
- Show mild to severe anxiety at separation from parent.

At 9–12 months, your baby will probably:

- Offer toys or objects to others but want them to be returned.
- Push away toys or foods when she doesn't want them.
- Become attached to a favorite toy or blanket.

nurturing your child



Attachment

Over the next months, your child will show her strong attachment to her primary caregiver by acting upset when she leaves and happy when she returns. To ease the anxiety caused by separating:

- Say goodbye, so she learns that you will come back.
- Explain that you are going to leave, but that you'll return.
- Provide a comfort object that will make her feel close to you.

Play

At this age, a baby will use play as a chance to develop new cognitive, physical and social skills. Watch your child — you can learn so much about your child's interests by simply observing. In addition:

- Provide tummy time to help strengthen the neck, torso, and upper body as well as time to practice walking, pushing, pulling, climbing and jumping.
- Play hide-and-seek with different objects. Your child will enjoy seeing the objects appear and disappear.

Discipline

At this age, a baby still doesn't understand discipline. Instead, as your child gains mobility, your focus should turn to safety and exploration:

- Distract or redirect your baby from unsafe objects or activities.
- Never use physical punishment.

Literacy

Between 6 and 12 months, your baby will begin to communicate with you — first by mimicking your sounds, and then by speaking his first words. To encourage his ability to talk as well as his love of reading:

- Talk and interact face-to-face so he begins to understand the connection between sounds and words.
- Point to familiar objects and people everywhere and ask him to identify them.
- Sing songs with repetitive verses and hand motions that will interest your baby, such as *The Wheels on the Bus*.
- Provide books that are made of cardboard or cloth to withstand a little chewing and make page turning easier.

your child's safety

As your baby begins to crawl, he will want to touch everything he can — this is how he learns about his world. Therefore, make his environment safe.

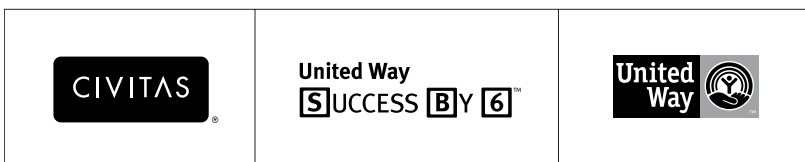
- Install safety latches on cabinets, drawers, and toilets.
- Cover unused electrical outlets with outlet covers and use cleats to secure dangling cords on drapes and blinds.

keep in mind...

Always be aware of your baby's safety. Never leave her unattended near water, open windows, fireplaces or any electrical appliances. Watch her carefully when she is in the kitchen or bathroom where potential dangers are everywhere.

- Gate staircases and steps, cover sharp edges of furniture and ledges on fireplaces.
- Keep older children's toys out of your baby's reach. These may have small parts that can be a choking hazard for your little one.
- Keep all detergents, medicines, sharp objects out of your child's reach.
- Contact Poison Control immediately if you think your child has eaten or drunk something poisonous:
1-800-222-1222.

Born Learning™ is a public engagement campaign helping parents, caregivers and communities create early learning opportunities for young children. Designed to support you in your critical role as a child's first teacher, *Born Learning* educational materials are made available through the efforts of United Way, United Way Success By 6 and Civitas. For more information, visit us online at www.bornlearning.org.





TIPS | for parents of Babies

It's never too early to read to your baby. As soon as your baby is born, he or she starts learning. Just by talking to, playing with, and caring for your baby every day, you help your baby develop language skills necessary to become a reader. By reading with your baby, you foster a love of books and reading right from the start. The tips below offer some fun ways you can help your child become a happy and confident reader. Try a new tip each week. See what works best for your child.

■ Snuggle up with a book

When you hold your baby close and look at a book together, your baby will enjoy the snuggling and hearing your voice as well as the story. Feeling safe and secure with you while looking at a book builds your baby's confidence and love of reading.

■ Choose baby-friendly books

Books with bright and bold or high-contrast illustrations are easier for young babies to see, and will grab their attention. Books made of cloth or soft plastic (for the bathtub) or "board books" with sturdy cardboard pages are easier for a baby to handle.

■ Keep books where your baby can reach them

Make sure books are as easy to reach, hold, and look at as toys. Remember, a baby will do with a book what he does with everything else—put it in his mouth. And that's exactly what he's supposed to do, so you may only want to put chewable books within reach.

■ Talk with your baby—all day long

Describe the weather or which apples you are choosing at the grocery. Talk about the pictures in a book or things you see on a walk. Ask questions. By listening, your child learns words, ideas, and how language works.

■ Encourage your baby's coos, growls, and gurgles

They are your baby's way of communicating with you, and are important first steps toward speech. Encourage attempts to mimic you. The more your baby practices making sounds, the clearer they will become. Go ahead and moo, woof and honk!

■ Give baby a hand!

Encourage your baby to pick up crackers or peas, touch noses and toes, point to pictures and grab toys. The muscles in those little hands will grow strong, agile, and ready to turn pages.

■ Develop a daily routine (and make reading a part of it)

Routines can soothe a baby, and let a baby learn to predict what will happen next. The ability to predict is important when your child is older and is reading independently.

■ Sing, Read, Repeat

Read favorite stories and sing favorite songs over and over again. Repeated fun with books will strengthen language development and positive feelings about reading.

■ "Read" your baby

Pay attention to how your baby reacts to the book you are reading. Stop if your baby isn't enjoying the story and try another book or another time.

Visit www.ReadingRockets.org for more information on how you can launch a child into a bright future through reading.