

Communication and Infant Cues



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Objectives

- Define nonverbal communication
- Examine strategies to foster infant communication
- Understand the infant cues for engagement
- Explore four types of baby cues and their impact on social and emotional development

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Poll Question #1

Newborns can communicate with you.

True or False



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Baby Cues

Babies are born ready to connect, engage and learn.

Babies thrive on engaging with their caregivers who support them to gradually learn about the world around them.



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What Are Baby Cues?

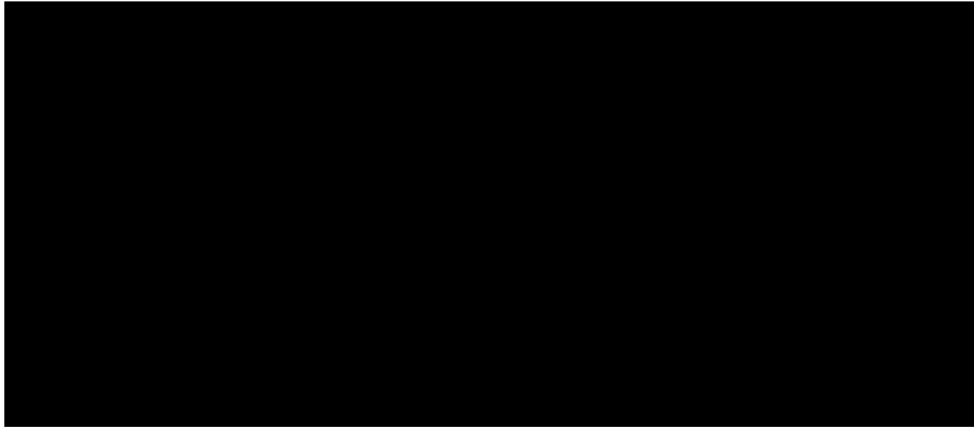
Before babies develop words, they use their face, arm, and leg movements as well as their voices to communicate.

These sounds and movements are called baby cues.

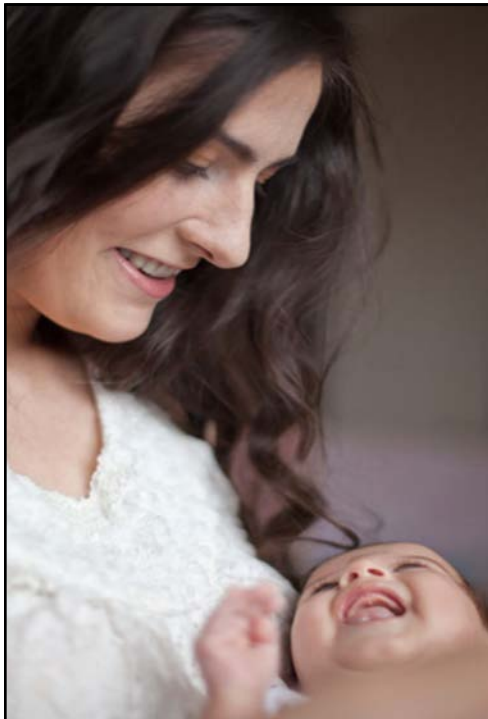


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Baby Cues in Action



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How Do Infants Communicate?

- Through movements
- Facial expressions
- Cries
- Coos

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Nonverbal Communication

- Helps to form an attachment
- Helps build trust
- Creates a bond between you and baby
- Helps with brain development
- Produces better students and future readers



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Language From Birth

Babies will turn toward language and prefer to listen to humans talking rather than to musical tones.



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Engagement Cues

- Called approach or coping signals
- Expresses pleasure or interest
- Demonstrates contentment or balance



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Eye Contact



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Poll Question #2

Which of the following are engagement cues a baby might display?

- a) Prolonged eye contact
- b) Hand to mouth activity
- c) Softly flexed posture where body looks relaxed
- d) All of the above



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Disengagement Cues

- Expresses displeasure or disinterest
- Demonstrates discontentment or distress



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Cue: Hunger

- Rooting (opens mouth)
- Making sucking noises (suck on fists)
- Crying (a late cue)



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Cue: Play With Me

- Eyes are wide and bright
- Purposeful movement
- Grasp your finger or hold on to you



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Cue: Give Me A Break

- Looking away
- Squirming or kicking
- Coughing or arching back
- Putting up their hands
- Yawning
- Wrinkling of head
- Frowning



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Cue: I'm Sleepy

- Becoming quiet
- Losing interest in people and toys
- Making jerky movements (in small babies)
- Becoming very still (these babies relax and fall asleep easily)
- Yawning, frowning or fussing
- Scrunching eyebrows
- Clenching fists into tight balls
- Rubbing eyes and ears



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What Can You Do to Promote Communication?



More Ways to Promote Infant Communication

- Respond to babies gestures, expressions, and sounds
- Respect and recognize each infant's feelings
- Model appropriate behaviors
- Be silly and have fun



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In Summary



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