

## Out of the Mouths

1. Signing. Some researchers suggest that babies can learn to communicate with hand signs before they produce recognizable words.

2. Cooing.. The adults accompany the baby's vocalizations with a lullaby.

*Can you hear the babies talking in their sleep?*

*Listen to them talking.*

*Can you hear the blackbirds singing in their nest?*

*Listen to them singing.*

*Can you hear the horses running in the field?*

*Listen to them running.*

*Can you hear the fishes swimming in the sea?*

*Listen to them swimming.*

3. Babbling.

*Hey! Peek-a-boo, peek-a-boo, peek-a-boo-boo-boo.*

*Hey! Peek-a-boo.*

*Peek-a... (Ba) peek-a... (Ba) peek-a-ba-ba-ba.*

*Hey! Peek-a-ba.*

*Pick-y-noo, pick-y-noo, pick-y-noo-noo-noo.*

*Hey! Pick-y-noo.*

*Pick-y... (Ma) pick-y... (Ma) pick-y-ma-ma-ma.*

*Hey! Pick-y-ma.*

*Pick-le-doo, pick-le-doo, pick-le-doo-doo-doo.*

*Hey! Pick-le-doo.*

*Pick-le... (Da) pick-le... (Da) pick-le-da-da-da.*

*Hey! Pick-le-da.*

*Rick-y-roo, rick-y-roo, rick-y-roo-roo-roo.*

*Hey! Rick-y-roo.*

*Rick-y... (Ra)... rick-y... (Ra) rick-y-ra-ra-ra.*

*Hey! Rick-y-ra.*

*Hey! Hey!*

*She. Key. Sea. Tea.*

4. Touching. Babies and adults are finding some common ground at last.

*(Babies) Ba-ba, ma-ma. Pa-pa, na-na. Ga-ga, ta-ta, la-la-la.*

*(Adults) Baby, mummy. Daddy, nanny. Grandma, thank you. La-la-la.*

*(Babies) Ba-mu, ba-ki. Ta-nu, ta-ki. Pa-na, ga-na, ba-da-boo-ie.*

*(Adults) Barmy baker, tiny talker, banana boogie.*

5. Pointing. Asking questions is a popular technique for helping babies name things.

*What have we here? (Banana, mama, dada)*

*What is up here? (All gone now. Apple. Dummy)*

*What can we hear? (La-la-la. Bottle. Juju)*

*What is in here? (Buns. Peas. Cheese)*

*What have we here? (Play puggle. Nana. Blanket)*  
*What is up here? (Yes, now, go. Helicopter)*  
*What can we hear? (Here, me, moo. Badabootie)*  
*What is in here? (Ball. Bath. Bed.)*

*What have we here? (La-la-la. Tiny talker)*  
*What is up here? (Helo, no. Pretty pickle)*  
*What can we hear? (Go out now. Baba. Tata)*  
*What is in here? (Ba-na-na)*

6. Singing. Babies copy nonsense songs even if they don't understand the words.  
*(Adults) Spandrels of St. Marco, sprinkled with pangloss,  
look just like a barcode; one, two, three, eight, nine, ten, cross.*

*(Babies) Sandals of Saint Marcus, covered with gloss paint,  
sparkle like a carbus. Eighteen, nineteen, twenty one,  
twenty two, twenty three, twenty four. Ask Saint Marcus for more, more, more.*

7. Talking. Command of language gives babies a way of describing the world about them and communicating with other people. It also assists the development of their imagination.

*(Child) Up, down, round-a-bout. Sing a song of Spring and Summer.  
In the garden rosy bushes. In the bushes oranges and mocking birds.  
Mama says...*

*(Adult) Who to you love?*

*I love fish. Fish in water. Fish 'n chips.  
Splash, hot, cold. Bubbles boating, bath plug floating.  
Dada says...*

*(Adult) No. Where's the little piggy?*

*(Child) Because he isy. Easy geesy geeses, micy mouses,  
pretty horses, spiders whopping, weasles popping.  
Nana says...*

*(Adult) Have some helly.*

*(Child) You're jealous. Legs jealous. Eyes, nose, head and soldiers, knees and toes.  
Fingers and thumbs.*

*Gaga says...*

*(Adult) You're magic, you are.*

*(Child) I'magic. Magic nation. Immagicnation.*

8. Thinking. No words required for this activity, just a little time to reflect.