

# Making Da-Da-Da Sounds

*Da-da-da-da.*



*Da-da-da!*

Imitate sounds that your baby makes, especially repeated sounds like *da-da-da* or *ma-ma*.

Soon, some of these repeated sounds may turn into your baby's very first words: *mama*, *dada*, or *bye-bye*.



## Why this is important

When your baby begins to make sounds, both purposely and accidentally, you can encourage her to repeat those sounds. After practicing a sound, she will later be able to recall the sound and distinguish it from others. Repeating sounds develops the skill that will enable her to eventually repeat words. Oral language development (learning to talk and understand the words they hear) is an important part of early literacy development for young children.

## What you do

- Hold your baby so she can see your face.
- Repeat a sound back to her that you have heard her make. Move your lips distinctly and make the sound clear: *Da-da-da*.
- Observe her watching your mouth move. She may move her lips and tongue as she attempts to use her voice. Wait for her to make the sound again.
- Encourage her by giving her plenty of time to respond and by repeating the sound.
- Acknowledge her attempts to make the sound back to you. *You're talking!* Take turns with your baby in saying the sound.

## Another idea

Try the many different sounds you've heard your baby make, such as *da, ma, bi, bu, and me*. Be sure to focus on one sound at a time. Making the sound into a song by changing your voice pitch or the tempo of the syllables keeps your baby interested longer.

### Let's read together!

*Baby Says*  
by John Steptoe