Your baby likely has the capacity for a back-and-forth exchange with you. Pay attention to how your baby responds to your questions, and pause to allow time for your baby to answer.

What’s happening at 4 months:
At four months old, your baby’s personality is developing. Your baby can be a lot of fun and will likely attempt to carry on a conversation with you, or anyone else around them. Talk with your baby often as you dress, feed, and bathe your baby, and narrate your actions as you do so. Repeat sounds often and try to get your baby to mimic them, like “Want to play with the b-b-ball?” and “It’s time for your b-b-bottle.”

Look for these expected behaviors at 4 months:
___ Smiles spontaneously, especially at people
___ Likes to play with people and might cry when playing stops
___ Copies some movements and facial expressions (smiling, frowning)
___ Begins to babble
___ Babbles with expression and copies sounds he hears
___ Cries in different ways to show hunger, pain or being tired
___ Lets you know if she is happy or sad
___ Responds to action
___ Reaches for toy with one hand
___ Uses hands and eyes together, such as seeing a toy and reaching for it
___ Follows moving things with eyes from side to side
___ Watches faces closely
___ Recognizes familiar people and things at a distance
___ Holds head steady, unsupported
___ Pushes down on legs when feet are on a hard surface
___ May be able to roll over from tummy to back
___ Can hold a toy and shake it and swing at dangling toys
___ Brings hands to mouth
___ When lying on stomach, pushes up to elbow

Talk to your doctor if your child:
___ Doesn’t watch things as they move
___ Doesn’t smile at people
___ Can’t hold head steady
___ Doesn’t coo or make sounds
___ Doesn’t bring things to mouth
___ Doesn’t push down with legs when feet are on a hard surface
___ Has trouble moving one or both eyes in all directions

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