By six months, your baby’s personality is in full bloom. Every sound your baby hears and makes at this stage is laying the groundwork for speech and language development. Make sure you keep talking!

What’s happening at 6 months:
Your baby can play games with you, so mix language into your exchanges. Take turns making sounds, talking, or singing, and play games that encourage your baby to repeat sounds. For example, you could say “The sheep says ‘baa’” and then ask your baby, “What does the sheep say?” Your baby is also becoming more aware of you as a separate person, and may begin to fear separation. A good way to help calm your baby’s fear of being alone is by playing games like "peek-a-boo."

Look for these expected behaviors at 6 months:

___ Knows familiar faces and begins to know if someone is a stranger
___ Likes to play with others, especially parents
___ Responds to other people’s emotions and often seems happy
___ Likes to look at self in a mirror
___ Responds to sounds by making sounds
___ Strings vowels together when babbling (ah, eh, oh)
___ Responds to own name
___ Makes sounds to show joy and displeasure
___ Begins to say consonant sounds (jabbering with m, b)
___ Looks around at things nearby
___ Brings things to mouth
___ Shows curiosity about things and tries to get at those out of reach
___ Begins to pass things from one hand to the other
___ Rolls over in both directions (front to back, back to front)
___ Begins to sit without support
___ When standing, supports weight on legs and might bounce
___ Rocks back and forth, sometimes crawling backward before forward
___ Doesn’t make vowel sounds (ah, eh, oh)
___ Doesn’t roll over in either direction
___ Doesn’t laugh or make squealing sounds
___ Seems very stiff, with tight muscles
___ Seems very floppy, like a rag doll

Talk to your doctor if your child:
___ Talk to your doctor if you notice your child:
___ Doesn’t try to get things that are in reach
___ Shows no affection for caregivers
___ Doesn’t respond to sounds around him
___ Has difficulty getting things to mouth
___ Doesn’t make vowel sounds (ah, eh, oh)
___ Doesn’t roll over in either direction
___ Doesn’t laugh or make squealing sounds
___ Seems very stiff, with tight muscles
___ Seems very floppy, like a rag doll