

Major events in social and emotional development in the first 12 months

Birth-2 months

- Baby's focus is homeostasis (self regulation). Reliance on (and therefore development of "trust" in) caregiver to assist with this process.
- In quiet alert state, infant may focus on and even smile at caregiver. Imitation of tongue protrusion has been documented.
- 6 -8 weeks: average age for smiling and engagement with caretaker.

3-4 months

- Attending to mother
- Then "cooing" in turn and exchange of social smiles: first turn-taking experiences.
- Joy is expressed in form of giggling and other vocalisations.
- From 3 months: Babies express sadness (e.g. grizzling, whining)

5-6 months

- 6months: see self as separate from mother/ caregiver. Separation anxiety may occur as a result
- Infant will create social contact.
- Expresses annoyance and unhappiness.
- Turns to mothers voice across room
- Shows enjoyment in interactive play (peek – a – boo etc).
- Response to tone of mothers voice.

7-9 months

- Imitation of sounds
- 9 months : Stranger danger
- 9 months: enjoys "ta games"
- Plays peek-a-boo

10-12 months

- Emergence of imitative play
- Cooperative play (e.g. ball play)
- Communication of needs and emotions (e.g. pointing, throwing, hugging)
- Waves bye-bye.
- Initiates cuddles