

Hi and Bye-Bye

Bye-bye!



Say *Hi* and *Bye-bye* (or *Good-bye*) to your baby, the same way you greet others.

Using standard greetings with your baby helps her learn to wave and say *Hi* and *Bye-bye*, too.



Why this is important

By waving and saying *Hi* and *Bye-bye* to your baby at appropriate times, you provide a model of conversational behavior. By responding joyfully to her attempts to communicate *Hi* and *Bye-bye*, you encourage her to try to repeat those actions. Because the gesture of waving is widely understood, it provides her with an opportunity to communicate with people outside of her immediate family.

What you do

- Smile and say *Hi* when you approach your baby or when she makes an *ah* sound (this may be her attempt at saying *Hi*). Wave to her to get her attention.
- Use greetings during daily routines, such as diaper changing, mealtime, and bath time. For example, when you baby makes the *ah* sound during a diaper change, pause, move closer to her face, smile, and say *Hi* in a gentle voice.
- Observe your baby. She will listen and watch you. She may smile back and then, over time, begin to imitate the sound and motion. Look for signs such as her fingers moving slightly in her lap. She will likely use the hand motion or the sound of *Hi* separately before putting the two together.
- Wave and say *Bye-bye* or *Good-bye* when leaving a room.
- Encourage others to greet her the same way, and help her wave her hand or wiggle her fingers to participate in this early form of conversation.

Another idea

You can help your baby practice greeting others throughout the day. Stand at the door and wave to people walking outside. Greet the cashier at the grocery store or the nurse in the doctor's office and encourage your child to do the same.

Let's read together!

Baby Says Bye-Bye
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