at 6 months:

- respond to sounds around him?
- respond when his name is called?
- smile back when you smile at him?
- show an interest in watching people's faces?
- make babbling sounds?
- try to communicate through sounds and gestures?
- imitate familiar movements?

at 11/2 years:

- use simple gestures, such as shaking head for "no"?
- enjoy exploring new things?
- play appropriately with toys?
- enjoy playing with other children?
- say simple words like 'mama'?