

Developmental Stages of Children Birth to 3 Years Old

This chart shows stages of development, not milestones. If you have concerns please contact your Health Care Provider.

Age	Language	Fine and Gross Motor	Self Help	Social / Emotional	Cognitive
2 Months	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coos • Turns head toward sounds • Makes gurgling noises • Cries to get needs met 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can hold head up • Begins to push up when on stomach • Strong grip • Improved ability to suck 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can briefly calm on own • Cries to get needs met 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attempts to look at parent • Observes environment • Smiles • Prefers faces over all else • Calms when held • Responds to touch and caregiver's moods 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pays attention to faces • Begins to follow things with eyes • Gets fussy if things don't change • Stares at fingers • Sees black and white easier • Is alert to sounds
4 Months	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coos when spoken to • Oos and ahhs • Babbles with expression • Copies sounds in environment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Holds head steady without help • Brings hands to mouth • Holds a toy and shakes it • Pushes up on elbows when on stomach • Purposeful movements • Turns onto 1 side 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cries in different ways to show hunger, pain, tired or bored • Opens mouth when seeing food • Keeps food in mouth and swallows it • Turns head away when full • Falls asleep alone in bed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Smiles and may laugh • Copies some movements and facial expressions • May cry when playing stops • Shows excitement with arm and leg movement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Responds to affection • Reaches for toy with one hand • Uses hand and eyes together • Follows moving things from side to side • Recognizes familiar people • Sees farther away • Watches activity with eyes • Has the ability to see more colors
6 Months	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Makes sounds to show joy and displeasure • Strings vowels together when babbling (ah, eh, oh) • Takes turns with caregiver making sounds 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rolls in both directions • Supports weight when held standing • Bounces • Begins to sit without support • Rocks back and forth in crawl position • Plays with toes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brings things to mouth • May start to hold bottle • Starting to fall back asleep without parent • Starting to use a sippy cup with handles • Cuts first tooth 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Knows familiar faces • Responds to other people's emotions • Often happy • Likes to look at self in mirror 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understands cause and effect and will experiment to make things happen • Understands that things exist even when out of sight • Brings things to mouth • Begins to transfer a toy from one hand to the other
9 Months	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Makes a lot of different sounds • Mammama, babababa • Understands "no" • Copies sounds of others • Points at things • Understands spoken words 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stands holding on • Sits without support • Crawls • Gets into sitting position • Pulls to stand 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Puts things in mouth • Picks up small things like food using thumb and forefinger • Can feed small bits of food 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May be afraid of strangers • Recognizes family members • Has favorite toys • Loves songs and rhymes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Has separation anxiety when leaving parent • Responds to simple commands • Responds to name • Understands "no" • Plays interactive games like peek-a-boo and waving goodbye • Picks up cereal with thumb and finger
12 Months	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Responds to simple requests • Uses simple gestures (shake head no, wave bye bye) • Changes tone when making sounds • Says mama, dada and uh oh • Tries to copy words 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gets to sitting without help • Pulls to stand and cruises furniture • May take first steps • May stand alone • Can climb out of crib 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Puts out arms or leg to help with dressing • Opens cabinet doors • Starting to use a spoon with lots of spills • Plays for short times with caregiver nearby • Finger feeds • Enjoys some solid foods 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shy with strangers • Cries when parent leaves • Has favorite toy • Shows some fear • Repeats sounds to get attention • Plays simple games like pat-a-cake 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Imitates more – "talking" into a phone, pushing a car, brushing hair • May brush doll's hair, hold phone close to ear • Bangs 2 things together • Puts things in and takes things out of containers • Pokes with pointer finger
18 Months	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understands many things said • Points to what she wants • Says 10-50 words • Shakes head no • Points to pictures in a book 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Walks alone • Pulls toys while walking • Climbs on furniture • Takes things apart • Builds with blocks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Helps get undressed • Drinks from a cup • Eats with a spoon • Tries to put on shoes • Likes to help a parent 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recognizes self in mirror • May have temper tantrums • Has full range of emotions • Plays simple pretend • Points to show others something 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Points to get attention of others • Points to a body part • Scribbles with a crayon • Shows interest in pretending with a doll or animal • Follows 1-step commands
24 Months	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Points to things or pictures when named • Knows names of familiar people • Knows body parts, says sentences with 2-4 words • Repeats words overheard • Understandable 1/2 the time to others • Says at least 50 words 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stands on tiptoe • Kicks a ball • Begins to run • Climbs off furniture without help • Uses stairs alternating feet • Throws ball overhand • Copies a straight line • Enjoys ride-on toys • Strings beads on a string 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shows more and more independence • Can help with simple chores • Requests food or drink • May begin potty training 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Laughs at unusual things • Is excited with other children • Shows defiant behavior • Play begins to involve other children • No expectation of sharing yet 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Begins to sort shapes and colors • Finishes rhymes or sentences from a familiar book • Builds with blocks • Names some items in a book (cat, car, dog, etc) • Follows 2-step directions
27 Months	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Says at least 200 words • Might stutter some, understandable 50-75% of the time • Has trouble making some letter sounds such as "th" and "s" • Understands 2-part requests • Says 3 word sentences • Uses "I", "me" and "mine" • Begins to repeat nursery rhymes • Makes up songs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can use a ride-on toy • Enjoys a push and pull toy • Starting to learn to button and zip on doll clothes • Likes puzzles with knobs • Strings buttons on a string 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potty training should be in progress • Gets 2-year molars • Can undress and starting to dress himself • Can put clothes in hamper • Starting to brush hair and wipe up spills 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May develop a fear of new things such as the doctor and haircuts • Needs about 12 hours of sleep and 1 nap • Demands own way much of the time • Has many strong feelings but trouble expressing them • Wants routines • Has trouble sharing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Laughs at silly things • Solves simple problems • Identifies some pictures in books • Enjoys pretend play with others • Looks at books and can identify animals in pictures
30 Months	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Asks "what" and "where" questions • Most speech is understandable • Says about 450 words • Names many common objects and familiar actions • Uses plurals 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Walk up and down stairs • Kicks and throws a ball • Builds towers of blocks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Helping with more chores • Pulls on own pants and socks • Brushes teeth with help • Washes and dries hands 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Starts to play with other children, not just beside others • Refers to self by name • Begins to share • Practicing taking turn 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased attention span • Understands "bigger" and "smaller" • Understands the concept of "I" • Enjoys creative movement • Refers to self as "I" • Understands concepts such as "hot" and "cold" and "up" and "down" • Says first and last name
33 Months	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Answers yes and no questions correctly • Rhyming increases • Names pictures in a book • Says first and last name • Names family members and friends 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Runs and stops without tripping • Avoids obstacles when running • Enjoys swinging, climbing and sliding • Wiggles both thumbs • Catches a ball • Pedals a tricycle • Kicks a ball forward 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Starting to button clothes and use zippers • Gets a snack from the pantry • Uses napkin • Helps set table • Plays alone for up to an hour 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Has friends • May have imaginary playmates • Refuses to listen 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Begins to follow simple rules • Counts 3 objects • Pretends to be an animal • May have an imaginary friend • Makes one object stand for another (a laundry basket is a garbage truck) • Asks "why" all the time (becoming a logical thinker)
36 Months	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can repeat 2 numbers in a row • Can name most familiar things • Understands "in" and "on" • Says first name, age, and sex • Names a friend • Understood by strangers most of the time • Talks in conversations with 3 sentences 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jumps with both feet off the ground • Builds a 9 block tower • Copies a circle • Climbs well • Runs easily • Pedals a trike 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Practices using snaps, zippers, buttons • Puts on shoes • Wipes up own spills • Uses a napkin • Plays alone up to one hour • Dresses self except for buttons 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Has a wide range of emotions • Understands "mine" and "his/hers" • Separates easily from parent • Shows affection for playmates • Takes turns in games • Has empathy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Knows most parts of the body • Can follow 2-step commands • Can work toys with moving parts • Plays make-believe with dolls and animals • Completes puzzles with 3-4 pieces • Understands what "2" means • Copies a circle • Turns pages of a book one at a time • Turns a door handle