

Developmental Milestones

How your child plays, learns, speaks, acts, and moves offers important clues about your child's development. Developmental milestones are things most children can do by a certain age.



Check the milestones your child has reached by the end of 6 months. Take this with you and talk with your child's doctor at every visit about the milestones your child has reached and what to expect next.

What most babies do by this age:

Social and Emotional

- ◆ 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

Language/Communication

- ◆ Responds to sounds by making sounds
- ◆ Strings vowels together when babbling ("ah," "eh," "oh") and likes taking turns with parent while making sounds
- ◆ Responds to own name
- ◆ Makes sounds to show joy and displeasure
- ◆ Begins to say consonant sounds (jabber with "m," "b")

Cognitive (learning, thinking, problem-solving)

- ◆ Looks around at things nearby
- ◆ Brings things to mouth
- ◆ Shows curiosity about things and tries to get things that are out of reach
- ◆ Begins to pass things from one hand to the other

Adapted from CARING FOR YOUR BABY AND YOUNG CHILD: BIRTH TO AGE 5, Fifth Edition, edited by Steven Shelov and Tanya Remer Altmann © 1991, 1993, 1998, 2004, 2009 by the American Academy of Pediatrics and BRIGHT FUTURES: GUIDELINES FOR HEALTH SUPERVISION OF INFANTS, CHILDREN, AND ADOLESCENTS, Third Edition, edited by Joseph Hagan, Jr., Judith S. Shaw, and Paula M. Duncan, 2008, Elk Grove Village, IL: American Academy of Pediatrics

Movement/Physical Development

- ◆ 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 moving forward



Act early by talking to your child's doctor if 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



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