

Developmental Benchmarks

Skills children typically have at a given age

At three months, your child should:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Turn head toward bright lights • Respond to loud sounds • Grasp objects placed in hand • Recognize breast or bottle • Begin to bat at objects 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make cooing, babbling sounds • Lift head and chest when lying on tummy • Quiet when spoken to • Follow moving objects with eyes • Smile
At six months, your child should:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reach for toys and pick them up • Move toys from hand to hand • Help hold bottle • Sit with minimum support 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Begin to crawl • Roll over both ways • Turn toward source of normal sound • Recognize familiar faces
At nine months, your child should:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sit without support • Find toy hidden under cloth • Imitate "bye-bye," "mama," clap, etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Begin creeping on hands and knees • Enjoy dumping out and picking up things
At one year, your child should:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pull himself/herself to a standing position • Crawl on hands and knees • Wave "bye-bye" 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Put toys into container • Begin to use a spoon and hold a cup • When asked, point to object he/she knows
At 18 months, your child should:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Try putting on their own shoes • Feed themselves with a spoon • Like to help • Let you know what they want 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Point to things when needed • Walk without help • Pick up a Cheerios[®] • Build a tower with three blocks
At two years, your child should:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Listen to short stories • Turn the pages of a book • Copy another child's play • Jump 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Run • Walk up and down stairs with help • Sometimes use two-word sentences • Often do the opposite of what is asked
At three years, your child should:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Talk well enough to be mostly understood • Use three-word sentences • Tell you who is a girl and who is a boy • Pedal a tricycle 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kick a ball • Imitate (copy) drawing a straight line • String large objects • Name six body parts
At four years, your child should:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ask questions • Play make-believe • Take turns • Dress himself/herself, except for fasteners 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Put together a seven- to 12-piece puzzle • Draw a face • Balance on one foot • Name several colors
A five years, your child should:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Play organized games • Follow three-step directions • Cut with scissors • Copy familiar shapes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draw a person with six to eight body parts • Catch a bounced ball • Count to 10 • Understand the meaning of many words