

Childhood Development

Important milestones for infants to five years.



If your child is not meeting their developmental milestones, it can be a signal that something is wrong. Providers use developmental milestones to find problems early, which can lead to better outcomes.

Here are common milestones your child should hit for every age.

Types of milestones

- Social & Emotional
- Language & Communication
- Problem-solving
- Movement & Physical Development

2 months



- Smiles at people
- Coos and gurgling sounds
- Watches faces
- Holds head up

4 months

- Copies a smile or frown
- Babbling starts
- Reaches for toys
- Holds head still



9 months



6 months

- Likes to play with parents
- Shows joy by making sounds
- Passes objects one hand to other
- Rolls over



- May cling to familiar adults
- Understands "no"
- Plays peek-a-boo
- Crawls

1 year



- Cries when parent leaves
- Tries to mimic words
- Bangs things together
- May begin standing alone

2 years



18 months

- May pretend play
- Says "no"
- Points to a body part
- Walks alone



- Begins to show defiance
- Follows easy instructions
- Begins to sort shapes
- Can kick a ball

3 years



- Takes turns
- Names friends
- Does simple 4-piece puzzles
- Runs and climbs

4 years



- Pretends to be parent
- Sings a song from memory
- Can use scissors
- Stands on one foot

5 years



- Can tell what is real
- Speaks clearly
- Can print some letters
- Hops and can somersault

Act early. Talk to your child's doctor.

If you notice your child is not meeting these developmental milestones, talk to your child's doctor. To learn more about important milestones, go to www.cdc.gov/ActEarly.

