

Developmental Milestones

Communication

4 months:

- eye contact, social smile
- laughs aloud, squeals, coos

9 months:

- babbles; uses repeated consonant sounds, like "mama" or "dada"
- plays "peek-a-boo"

12 months:

- imitates sounds and actions
- understands simple phrases
- waves good-bye, plays patty-cake

18 months:

- says "Mama/Dada" for parents
- uses at least 5 words
- Asks for food/drink with words

24 months:

- says 10 or more words
- follows simple instructions
- uses 2-word combinations

3 years:

- uses words that are easily understood by familiar adults
- talks in at least 3-word phrases

4 years:

- understandable in conversation by unfamiliar adults/peers
- speaks in complete sentences, combining ideas with "and," "or," "but"
- has an extended vocabulary

Physical

4 months:

- Rolls in both directions
- Brings hands together when lying on back

6 months:

- Sits by self (no help)
- Picks up objects
- Reaches for objects

9 months:

- Crawls on hands/knees
- Gets in and out of sitting
- Transfers toys from one hand to other

12 months:

- Walking
- Picks up small object with thumb and finger

18 months:

- Walks, seldom falls
- Runs stiffly
- Crawls down stairs
- Scribbles with crayons

24 months:

- Kicks ball on request
- Runs
- Stacks 4 blocks
- Turns pages of book one at a time

3 years:

- Balances on one foot 1-2 seconds
- Walks up / down stairs holding rail/wall
- Threads small beads on string
- Draw/copy vertical lines and circles

3 ½ years:

- Pedals tricycle
- Plays on playground equipment
- Cuts on line

4 years:

- Jumps
- Copies drawing a cross
- Draws recognizable pictures

Thinking:

3-6 months:

- Looks toward noise
- Mouths toys
- Bangs toys

6-9 months:

- Drops toys without watching results
- Finds toy that is partially hidden
- Shakes toys
- Moves to get toy

9-12 months:

- Looks to adult for help with toys
- Intentionally drops toy and watches it fall

12-18 months

- Activates toy after adult shows how
- Places things in cup and then dumps out
- Demonstrates use of everyday items

18 months:

- Looks at books with adult, naming or pointing at familiar objects
- Activates toy without adult help

24 months:

- Understands "one," "all"
- Matches object to picture
- Repeats finger play with words/actions

3 years:

- Matches three colors
- Matches objects by color, shape, and size

3 ½ years:

- Counts to 5
- Names primary colors

4 years:

- engages in pretend play
- Counts 5 objects
- Sorts by shapes, colors
- Tells own name / age
- Understands the concept of the number 3
- Plays cooperatively with peers
- Adjusts easily to changes in routine or schedule