

Developmental Stages

At this age most children will be able to...

one month

- Raise head slightly off floor or bed, when lying on stomach
- Hold head up momentarily when supported
- Briefly watch and follow objects with eyes
- Avoid mildly annoying sensations (placement of cloth on face)
- Make some “noise in throat” sounds

two months

- Hold head erect, bobbing when supported in sitting position
- Imitate or respond with occasional smile to smiling person
- Follow moving person with eyes
- Vocalize
- Move both legs and arms equally well

three months

- Lift head and chest when lying on stomach
- Show vigorous body movement
- Show improved head control
- Recognize breast or bottle
- Coo – chuckle

four months

- Have good head control
- Roll from side to side
- Begin reaching
- Laugh aloud
- Take object, such as a rattle, when held near hand
- Follow moving object when held in sitting position
- Enjoy play
- Use comforting when distressed

six months

- Sit with a little help
- Roll from back to stomach
- Support weight; bounce activity
- Babble – more than two sounds
- Hold one toy and reach for another

nine months

- Sit alone – change position without falling
- Creep or crawl on all fours
- Express affection
- Hold 2 objects at the same time
- Say Mama – Dada
- Show fear of strangers

twelve months

- Pull self to standing – may step with support
- Pick things up with thumb and one finger
- Put one toy in another
- Give toy on request
- Give affection
- Follow simple directions accompanied by gestures
- Say 2 or 3 words

fifteen months

- Walk without support
- Stack 3 blocks
- Use 5 or 6 words
- Vocalize – voice up and down like conversation (jargon)
- Partially feed self with a spoon or fingers
- Find a hidden toy under a cover

eighteen months

- Walk well
- Climb up or down one stair
- Walk backwards pulling a toy
- Make marks with crayon on paper
- Partially feed self with a spoon
- Use 5 to 10 words

two years

- Kick large ball
- Turn pages of a book
- Imitate housework
- Ask for items by name
- Recognize familiar pictures – know if it is upside down
- Use 2 or 3 words together, such as “more juice”

three years

- Walk up stairs
- Stand momentarily on one foot
- Jump up with both feet
- Feed self
- Put on a coat with help
- Verbalize toilet needs

four years

- Hop in place
- Throw ball over hand
- Catch ball when bounced to him or her
- Copy circles
- Know own sex, age, last name
- Point to 5 basic colors
- Play with other children
- Use sentences with correct grammar, such as “Can I go to the store?” “I want a big cookie.”
- Wash and dry hands unassisted

five years

- Walk backward toe to heel
- Walk on tiptoe
- Print a few capital letters
- Recognize own printed name
- Play with others
- Identify a penny, nickel, and/or dime
- Answer verbally to “Hi” and “How are you?”
- Lace shoes

