

Milestone Charts: What to Expect From Your Newborn to 36-Months-Old

Resource & Referral Handout

Child's Age	Mastered Skills (most children can do)	Emerging Skills (half of children can do)	Advanced Skills (a few children can do)
1 month	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lifts head Responds to sound Stares at faces 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Follows objects Ooohs and ahhs Can see black-and-white patterns 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Smiles Laughs Holds head at 45-degree angle
2 months	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vocalizes sounds — gurgling and cooing Follows objects Holds head up for short periods 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Smiles, laughs Holds head at 45-degree angle Movements become smoother 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Holds head steady Bears weight on legs May lift head and shoulder (mini-pushup)
3 months	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Laughs Holds head steady Recognizes your face and scent 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Squeals, gurgles, coos Recognizes your voice Does mini-pushups 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Turns toward loud sounds Can bring hands together and may bat at toys Can roll over
4 months	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Holds head up steadily Can bear weight on legs Coos when you talk to him 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Can grasp a toy Reaches out for objects Can roll over 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Imitates speech sounds — “baba, dada” May cut first tooth May be ready for solids
5 months	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Can distinguish between bold colors Can roll over Amuses himself by playing with hands and feet 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Turns toward new sounds Recognizes own name 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> May sit momentarily without support Mouths objects Stranger anxiety may begin
6 months	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Turns toward sounds and voices Imitates sounds, blows bubbles Rolls in both directions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reaches for objects and mouths them Sits without support Is ready for solids 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> May lunge forward or start crawling May jabber or combine syllables May drag object toward himself
7 months	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sits without support Reaches for things with a sweeping motion Imitates speech sounds (babbling) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Combines syllables into word-like sounds Begins to crawl or lunges forward 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stands while holding onto something Waves goodbye Bangs objects together
8 months	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Says "dada" and "mama" to both parents (isn't specific) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stands while holding onto something 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pulls self to standing position, cruises

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Begins to crawl • Passes object from hand to hand 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Crawls well • Points at objects 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Picks things up with thumb-finger "pincher" grasp • Indicates wants with gestures
9 months	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Combines syllables into word-like sounds • Stands while holding onto something 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Uses pincer grasp to pick up objects • Cruises while holding onto furniture • Bangs objects together 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plays patty cake • Says "dada" and "mama" to the right parent (is specific)
10 months	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Waves goodbye • Picks things up with pincher grasp • Crawls well • Cruises 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Says "dada" and "mama" to the right parent (is specific) • Responds to name and understands "no" • Indicates wants with gestures 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drinks from a cup • Stands alone for a couple of seconds • Puts objects into a container
11 months	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Says "dada" and "mama" to the right parent (is specific) • Plays patty-cake • Stands alone for a couple of seconds 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Imitates others' activities • Puts objects into a container • Understands simple instructions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drinks from a cup • Says one word besides "mama" and "dada" • Stoops from standing position
12 months	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Imitates others' activities • Jabbers wordlike sounds • Indicates wants with gestures 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Says one word besides "mama" and "dada" • Takes a few steps • Understands and responds to simple instructions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scribbles with crayon • Walks well • Says two words besides "mama" and "dada"
13 months	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Uses two words skillfully (e.g. "hi" and "bye") • Bends over and picks up an object • Stands alone 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enjoys gazing at his reflection • Drinks from a cup • Plays "peekaboo" 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Combines words and gestures to make needs known • Tries to lift heavy things • Rolls a ball back and forth
14 months	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finger feeds • Empties containers of contents • Imitates others 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Toddles well • Initiates games • Points to one body part when asked 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Uses spoon or fork • Matches lids with appropriate containers (e.g. pots and pans) • Pushes and pulls toys while walking
15 months	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plays with ball • Vocabulary increases up to five words • Walks backward 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can draw a line • Runs well • Adopts "no" as his favorite word 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Walks up stairs • "Helps" around the house • Puts his fingers to his mouth and says "shhh"
16 months	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Turns the pages of a book • Has temper tantrums when frustrated • Becomes attached to a soft toy or other object 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discovers joy of climbing • Stacks three blocks • Learns the correct way to use common objects (e.g. the telephone) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Takes off one piece of clothing by himself • Gets finicky about food • Switches from two naps to one
17 months	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Uses a handful of words 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Responds to directions (e.g. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dances to music

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> regularly Enjoys pretend games Likes riding toys 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> "Sit down") Feeds doll Talks more clearly 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sorts toys by color, shape, or size Kicks ball forward
18 months	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Will "read" board books on his own Can pedal when put on tricycle Scribbles well 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strings words together in phrases Brushes teeth with help Builds a tower of four cubes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Throws ball overhand Takes toys apart and puts them back together Shows signs of toilet training readiness
19 months	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Can use a spoon and fork Can run Can throw a ball underhand 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Half of speech may be understandable Recognizes when something is wrong (calling a dog a cat) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Can wash and dry hands and brush teeth with help Can point to picture of cat or dog when you say the word May know when she needs to urinate
20 months	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Will pretend to feed a doll Can take off own clothes with help Will dump an object in imitation, such as throwing garbage away 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Learns words at a rate of 10 or more a day Can walk up (but probably not down) stairs Searches for hidden objects 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> May start exploring genitals Draws straighter lines Names several body parts
21 months	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Can walk up steps Enjoys helping around the house Can set simple goals (e.g. deciding to put a toy in a certain place) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Can throw a ball overhand Can kick a ball Can make block towers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Can name cat or dog when you show a picture Can make short sentences (Me go) Can walk down stairs
22 months	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Can kick a ball forward Follows two-step requests (get your doll and bring it here) Imitates others' behavior 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Can do simple puzzles Can draw a straight line Can identify several body parts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Can put on clothing Might be ready for a big bed Understands opposites (tall and short)
23 months	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Can make a tower of four blocks Can name a simple picture in a book Can use 50 single words 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Can make two- or three-word sentences Can sing simple tunes Takes more of an interest in playing with other kids 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Can walk down stairs Talks about self (likes, dislikes) Asks "Why?"
24 months	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Can name at least six body parts on a doll Half of speech is understandable Can make short sentences 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Starts talking about self Can arrange things in categories Can walk down stairs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Begins to understand abstract concepts like sooner and later Becomes attuned to gender differences Learns to jump
25 and 26 months	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Takes off clothes Names several body parts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Washes and dries hands Brushes teeth with help 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Speaks clearly all the time

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Builds a tower out of three or four blocks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Puts on clothes • Speaks clearly most of the time • Throws a ball overhand 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draws vertical line
27 and 28 months	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Speaks clearly most of the time • Puts on clothes • Jumps up off the ground 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Builds a tower out of several blocks • Speaks clearly all the time 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draws vertical line • Balances on one foot
29 and 30 months	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brushes teeth with help • Washes and dries hands 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draws a vertical line • Speaks clearly all the time • Balances on one foot 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Puts on T-shirt • Names one color • Names one friend
31 and 32 months	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Builds a tower of six blocks • Names at least six body parts • Throws ball overhand 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Puts on a T-shirt • Balances on each foot for a second • Brushes teeth by herself 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Calls a friend by his name • Washes and dries hands • Uses two adjectives
33 and 34 months	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Names one color • Carries on a conversation of two to three sentences • Names at least four pictures in a book 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Builds a tower of eight blocks • Uses prepositions (e.g. on, in, over) • Speaks clearly 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completely toilet trained during the day • Wiggles thumb • Expresses a wide range of emotions
35 and 36 months	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can describe how two objects are used • Uses four to five words in a sentence • Names two actions (e.g. skipping, jumping) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Balances on each foot for three seconds • Can follow a two- or three-component command • Separates fairly easily from parents 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hops and skips • Draws a circle • Gets dressed without help

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