

Ages and Stages

Your baby at 2 months:

- Begins to smile at people
- Can briefly calm himself
- Tries to look at parent
- Coos, makes gurgling sounds
- Turns head toward sounds
- Begins to follow things with eyes and recognize people at a distance
- Hold head up/ begins to push up when on tummy



Your baby at 4 months:

- Smiles spontaneously, especially at people
- Likes to play with people and might cry when playing stops
- Copies some movements and facial expressions
- Begins to babble
- Reaches for you with one hand
- Uses hands and eyes together (seeing a toy and reaching for it)
- Holds head steady, unsupported
- Pushes down on legs when feet are on a hard surface

Your baby at 6 months:

- Knows familiar faces and begins to know if someone is a stranger
- Responds to sounds by making sounds
- Responds to own name
- Begins to say consonant sounds (jabbering with “m,” “b”)
- Shows curiosity about things and tries to get things that are out of reach
- Rolls over in both directions
- Begins to sit without support
- When standing, supports weight on legs and might bounce
- Rocks back and forth, sometimes crawling backward before moving forward

Your baby at 9 months:

- May be clingy with familiar adults
- Has favorite toys
- Understands “no”
- Copies sounds and gestures of others
- Uses fingers to point at things
- Looks for things he sees you hide
- Picks up things like cereal o’s between thumb and index finger
- Stands, holding on
- Can get into sitting position
- Sits without support
- Pulls to stand
- Crawls

Your child at 18 months:

- May have temper tantrums
- Plays simple pretend, such as feeding a doll
- Points to show others something interesting
- Says several single words
- Says and shakes head “no”
- Knows what ordinary things are for; for example, telephone, brush, spoon
- Scribbles on his own
- Can follow 1-step verbal commands without any gestures
- Walks alone
- Can help undress him/herself
- Drinks from a cup/eats with a spoon



Center for Disease Control and Prevention: “Learn the Signs. Act Early” www.cdc.gov/actearly

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Your child at 2 years:

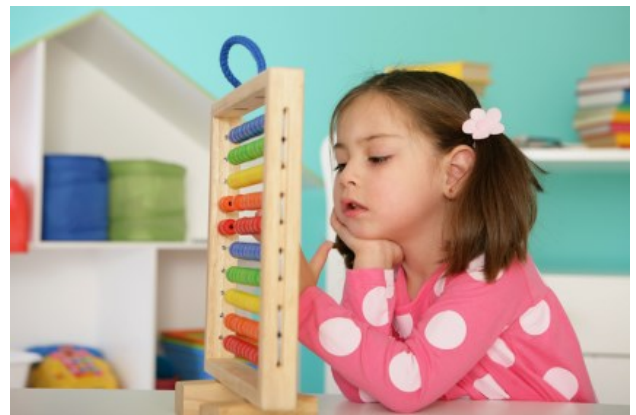
- Copies others
- Shows defiant behavior
- Shows more and more independence
- Says sentences with 2 to 4 words
- Points to things in a book
- Begins to sort shapes and colors
- Builds towers of 4 or more blocks
- Might use one hand more than the other
- Follows 2 step instructions
- Stands on tiptoe
- Kicks a ball
- Begins to run

Your child at 3 years:

- Takes turns in games
- Understands the idea of “mine” and “his” or “hers”
- Separates easily from mom and dad
- Dresses and undresses self
- Follows instructions with 2 or 3 steps
- Understands words like “in,” “on,” and “under”
- Says first name, age, and sex
- Talks well enough for strangers to understand most of the time
- Carries on a conversation using 2 to 3 sentences
- Plays make-believe with dolls, animals and people
- Does puzzles with 3 or 4 pieces
- Copies a circle with a pencil or crayon
- Turns book pages one at a time
- Screws and unscrews jar lids or turns door handles

Your child at 4 years:

- Enjoys doing new things
- Is more and more creative with make-believe play
- Cooperates with other children
- Often can't tell what's real and what's make-believe
- Talks about what he/she likes and is interested in
- Knows some basic rules of grammar, such as correctly using “he” and “she”
- Sings a song from memory
- Tells stories
- Can say first and last name
- Names some colors and numbers
- Understands the idea of counting
- Starts to understand time
- Uses scissors
- Tells you what he/she thinks is going to happen next in a book
- Hops and stands on one foot up to 2 seconds
- Catches a bounced ball most of the time



Your child at 5 years:

- Wants to please friends
- Wants to be like friends
- More likely to agree with rules
- Is aware of gender
- Can tell what's real and what is make-believe
- Shows more independence
- Speaks very clearly
- Tells a simple story using full sentences
- Uses future tense
- Says name and address
- Counts 10 or more things
- Can print some letters or numbers
- Stands on one foot for 10 seconds or longer
- Hops; may be able to skip
- Uses a fork and spoon and sometimes a table knife
- Can use the toilet on his/her own