

Child Development Chart The First Four Years

This Child Developmental Chart lists some of the developmental skills that your child should learn as he/she develops and grows. It is meant to be used as a guide to monitor your child's development and to help ensure that your child has the appropriate opportunities to support his/her development.

AGE	SOCIAL	COGNITIVE	LANGUAGE	SELF-HELP	GROSS MOTOR	FINE MOTOR	VISION	HEARING	
By 6 months	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Smiles at others. Can be comforted by a familiar person when upset. Responds to own mirror image. Recognizes mother from others. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coos, chuckles, gurgles when happy. Recognizes familiar voices. Explores hands & objects by mouthing. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cries in a special way when hungry. Watches your face when you talk. Imitates coughs or other sounds like – ah, eh, buh. Laughs out loud. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sucks well on nipple or breast. Reacts to sight of bottle or breast. Indicates desire for food by watching spoon, opening mouth, closing lips over spoon and swallowing. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lifts head and chest when lying on stomach. Turns around when lying on stomach. Sits with support. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Looks at and reaches for faces and toys. Picks up toy with one hand. Brings toy to mouth. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Eyes move to inspect surroundings. Looks at more distant objects. Eyes move to look for source of sound. Time to schedule a vision assessment with an optometrist. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Startles in response to sudden loud noises. Looks around to determine where new sounds are coming from. 	
By 9 months	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reaches for familiar people. Pushes things away he/she doesn't want. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expresses emotions through facial gestures. Recognizes familiar surroundings and objects. Shows early understanding of cause and effect toys. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Babbles and imitates sounds like da-da, ma-ma, ba-ba. Responds to name-turns and looks. Responds to being told "no". 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Feeds self cracker. Begins chewing with up and down movement. Licks food from lower lip. Drinks from a cup held by an adult. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rolls over from back to stomach. Crawls or moves self forward on tummy. Sits alone – steady, without support. Moves from sitting to crawling position. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Transfers toy from one hand to the other. Uses two hands to pick up large objects. 			
By 12 months	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Uses gestures to communicate – waves "Bye-Bye", shakes head no. Looks to caregiver for reassurance in new or unfamiliar situations. Seeks comfort when upset. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Responds to own name. Identifies familiar objects & people by pointing. Imitates gestures and simple actions. Tries to get something by making sounds. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shows interest in simple books. Brings object/toy to show caregiver. Follows simple directions like "sit down". Understands phrases like "all gone". Consistently uses 3 – 5 sounds that represent words (ex. Ba for ball, ba ba for bottle). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Picks up food with fingers and brings it to mouth. Licks food from lower lip. Picks up a spoon by the handle. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gets up into sitting position on own. Crawls around on hands and knees. Walks around furniture or crib while holding on. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Picks up small objects – using thumb and finger grasp. Points with index finger. Releases objects willingly. Takes things out of container. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Attends to small objects. Makes eye contact with adults at several feet. Eyes turn inward as objects move close to the nose. Looks for dropped toy. 		
By 18 months	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Looks at you in play. Begins to show independence. Fights limit setting. Likes to watch and imitate others. Meets people with "hi" or similar greeting. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Points using one finger to a specific object they want. Looks and points to pictures in books. Participates in familiar games. Understands and follows simple requests such as "bring me your shoes." 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Demonstrates some pretend play with toys or objects. Responds with words or gestures to simple questions. Uses at least 20 words. Points to several body parts on self. Understands the concepts of "in & out" as well as "off & on". 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lifts cup to mouth and drinks. Insists on doing things by self such as feeding. Feeds self with spoon. Swallows without loss of food or saliva but may lose some during chewing. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Picks up a toy from a standing position. Plays in a squatting position. Crawls up stairs if there is an opportunity. Walks sideways and backwards. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stacks two or more blocks. Picks up two small toys in one hand. Scribbles with crayon. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Looks where he/she is going when walking and climbing. Coordinates reaching & grasping for objects with vision. Judges depth. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Turns toward you when you call their name. Knows sounds like a closing door and ringing phone. 	
By 24 months	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sometimes says "no" when interfered with. Shows sympathy to other children, tries to comfort them. Usually responds to correction – stops. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Begins to develop shape and size awareness. Begins to match similar objects. Uses skills already learned and develops new ones. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Uses 100-150 words. Uses at least 2 pronouns (ex. you, me, mine). Consistently combines 2-4 words in sentence (ex. Truck go down). Names a few familiar objects in picture books. Follows two part instructions (ex. Get your teddy and bring it to me). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Eats with a spoon spilling little. Eats with a fork. Takes off open coat or shirt without help. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kicks a ball forward. Beginning to run. Jumps on the spot. Walks up and down stairs alone, with adult supervision. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Writes with a stick in dirt. Takes off own footwear, clothes or hat when given the opportunity. Builds towers of five or more blocks. Turns pages of picture books, one at a time. 			
By 30 months	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> "Helps" with simple household tasks. Plays with other children – cars, dolls, blocks. Cooperates with parent requests half the time. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Begins to sort groups of objects into sets. Talks and sings more. Completes simple puzzles. Plays make believe games with actions and words. Becomes aware of the names of numbers. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Talks in sentences at least four words long. Understands the concepts of size (big/little) and quantity (one/all). Answers questions like "What do you do with a cracker? A hat?" Remembers and understands familiar stories. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Opens door by turning knob. Washes and dries hands. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Climbs on play equipment-ladders, slides. Stands on one foot without support. Crawls up and down stairs – one foot per step. Jumps in one place with both feet together. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scribbles with circular motion. Draws or copies vertical lines. Cuts with small scissors. Uses thumb and fingers to hold crayons. 			
By 36 months	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plays a role in "pretend" games like house or school-mom, dad, teachers. Plays games like tag, hide and seek. Knows gender identity. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Begins to sort groups of objects into sets. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Understands who, what, where and why questions. Talks in 5-8 word sentences Speaks clearly - is understandable most of the time. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dresses self with help. Washes face without help. Toilet trained (by 42 months). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rides around on tricycle, using pedals. Hops on one foot without support. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Draws or copies a complete circle. Cuts across paper with small scissors. Draws or copies vertical lines. Uses thumb & fingers to hold crayon. 			
By 48 months	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tries to comfort someone who is upset. Takes turns and shares with other children in small group activities. Looks for adult approval "look what I did" or "watch me". 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Say rhymes or sing children's songs. Tell what is happening in a picture when asked. Understand 3-part related directions "Take off your shoes, and put your boots on for outside play." 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Follows directions of three or more steps, e.g. "First get some paper, then draw a picture, last give it to mom". Uses adult-type grammar in full sentences. Correctly uses: 's' (as in sun); 'sh' (as in shoe); 'l' (as in light); and speech is understood 90% of the time. Can generate simple rhymes, e.g. "cat-bat", and matches some letters to their sounds, ex. "T says 'tuh'". 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Buttons and unbuttons clothing. Brushes teeth with verbal instruction. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Using an overhand pattern, child hits a target with a small ball or bean bag from a short distance. Throws a small ball or bean bag using an underhand pattern. Runs and stops without falling. Jumps forward using a two-foot take off and landing. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Holds a pencil or crayon with a tripod grasp. Build steps using 6 sided cubes. Can copy a cross and a square. Uses scissors to cut out a circle. Colours in between the lines of a simple picture. 			

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This Red Flags section identifies important skills and behaviours at various ages in development. If you feel you can identify any of the following red flags with your child, there are supports in the community available to help you. Contact your primary care provider (doctor), or the other identified service(s) to discuss your concerns. Parents or legal guardians can make direct referrals to One Kids Place, Children's Treatment Centre or Hands TheFamilyHelpNetwork.ca.

Red Flags and Where to Go for Help

At 6 Months	At 12 Months	At 18 Months	At 2 Years Old	At 3 Years Old	At 4 Years Old
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Does not pull up to sit or does not roll over. ■ Baby is unable to hold or grasp adult finger or toy for a short time and/or use hands to reach for items. ■ Turning or tilting head to use only one eye to look at things. ■ Lack of babbling or early vocalization/babbling stops. ■ Does not respond to environmental noises or voices. ■ No eye contact. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Consistently ignores or has difficulty using one side of the body or uses one hand exclusively. ■ Baby unable to hold head in the middle to turn and look left or right. ● No eye contact. ● Lack of babbling or early vocalization/babbling stops. ● Does not use gestures to communicate (ie. waves bye-bye, shakes head "no"). ▲ Baby unable to hold any of their weight on their legs. ▲ Does not show interest in playful situations. ▲ Hard to console, stiffens when approached. ▲ Will not seek comfort when upset. ▲ If child not eating soft food from utensil or fingers, feed at regular times, cannot hold a "sippy cup", or has not developed rotary chew movement. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Unable to walk. ● Unable to show at least 3 body parts. ● Does not use at least 20 words consistently. ● Unable to point to pictures using one finger. ● Unable to use at least 4 different consonants. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Unable to position hands in a variety of ways (turning, twisting, throwing). ■ Unable to walk with heels down. ● Unable to consistently combine at least 2 words into phrases (daddy hat, truck go down). ● Loss of communication (ie. speech or gestures). ▲ Child kicks, bites and screams easily without provocation. ▲ Rocks back and forth, flaps hands, repeats same action over and over without obvious purpose. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Is not understood by others. ● Does not know own full name. ● Frustrated when verbally communicating. ● Unable to play appropriately with toys/objects. ● Does not follow 2 step directions. ▲ Regression or loss of skills already learned. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Does not hold a book at normal distance, too close, too far away. ■ Does not respond when called by name. ■ Displays frequent temper tantrums. ● Cannot answer "what, who, where, why, how" questions. ● Has difficulty holding crayons/pencil for drawing. ● Cannot tell a story. ● Difficult to understand 95% of the time. ● Trips and falls frequently, appear clumsy. ▲ Cannot match and name colors; or cannot pick out detail in objects and pictures.

Where to go for help:

■ Contact your primary health care provider

● If you have any concerns regarding your child's speech, language or motor skill development contact 'One Kids Place', Children's Treatment Centre at (705) 789-9985 or (866) 232-5559

▲ Contact Hands TheFamilyHelpNetwork.ca at (705) 645-3155 or (800) 668-8555