



How your child plays, learns, speaks, acts, and moves offers important clues about your child's development.

Developmental milestones are things most children can do by a certain age.

What most children do by this age:

Social and Emotional

- Copies adults and friends
- Shows affection for friends without prompting
- Shows concern for crying friend
- Separates easily from mom and dad

Language/Communication

- Can follow instructions with two or three steps
- Understands words like "in," "on," and "under"
- Talks well enough for strangers to understand most of the time

Cognitive

- Can work toys with buttons and moving parts
- Plays make-believe with dolls, animals, and people
- Turns book pages one at a time
- Screws and unscrews jar lids or turns door handle
- Builds towers of more than six blocks

Movement/Physical Development

- Climbs well and runs easily
- Pedals a tricycle (3-wheel bike)
- Walks up and down stairs, one foot on each step

Act early by talking to your child's doctor if your child:

- Falls down a lot or has trouble with stairs
- Drools or has very unclear speech
- Can't work simple toys
- Doesn't speak in sentences
- Doesn't understand simple instructions
- Doesn't make eye contact
- Doesn't play pretend or make-believe

If you're concerned, act early.

Tell your child's doctor or nurse if you notice any of these signs of possible developmental delay for this age.

For more help, contact the Child Development Center (406-549-6413, 1-800-914-4779, or online at childdevcenter.org) which offers screening and support services throughout Western Montana.

The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends that children be screened for general development using standardized, validated tools at 9, 18, and 24 or 30 months and for autism at 18 and 24 months or whenever a parent or provider has a concern. Ask your child's doctor about your child's developmental screening.



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