



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 babies do by this age:

Social and Emotional

- Smiles spontaneously, especially at people
- Likes to play with people and might cry when playing stops
- Copies some movements and facial expressions, like smiling or frowning

Language/Communication

- Begins to babble
- Babbles with expression and copies sounds that they hear
- Cries in different ways to show hunger, pain, or being tired

Cognitive

- Lets you know if they are happy or sad
- Responds to affection
- Reaches for toy with one hand
- Follows moving things with eyes from side to side
- Watches faces closely

Movement/Physical Development

- Holds head steady and unsupported
- Brings hands to mouth
- When lying on stomach, pushes up to elbows

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

- Doesn't watch things as they move
- Doesn't smile at people
- Can't hold head steady
- Doesn't bring hands to mouth
- Doesn't coo or make sounds
- Has trouble moving one or both eyes in all directions

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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