



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

- Wants to please and be like friends
- More likely to agree with rules
- Can tell what's real and what's make-believe
- Is sometimes very demanding and sometimes very cooperative

Language/Communication

- Speaks very clearly
- Tells a simple story using full sentences
- Uses future tense; for example, "Grandma will be here soon."

Cognitive

- Counts 10 or more things
- Can draw a person with at least six body parts
- Can print some letters or numbers
- Knows about things used every day, like money and food

Movement/Physical Development

- Hops and may be able to skip
- Stands on one foot for 10 seconds or longer
- Swings and climbs

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

- Doesn't show a wide range of emotions
- Shows extreme behavior and/or is unusually withdrawn and not active
- Doesn't respond to people, or responds only superficially
- Can't tell what's real and what's make-believe
- Doesn't draw pictures or talk about daily activities or experiences

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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