

Developmental milestones

By 6 months

- turns to source of sounds
- startles in response to sudden, loud noises
- makes different cries for different needs – I'm hungry, I'm tired
- watches your face as you talk
- smiles and laughs in response to your smiles and laughs
- imitates coughs or other sounds – *ah, eh, buh*

By 12 months

- follows simple one-step directions – "sit down"
- looks across the room to something you point to
- uses three or more words
- uses gestures to communicate – waves "bye bye", shakes head "no"
- gets your attention using sounds, gestures and pointing while looking at your eyes
- brings you toys to show you
- "performs" for attention and praise
- combines lots of sounds as though talking – *abada baduh abee*
- shows interest in simple picture books

By 24 months

- follows two-step directions – "Go find your teddy bear and show it to Grandma"
- uses 100 or more words
- uses at least two pronouns – "you", "me", "mine"
- consistently combines two or more words in short phrases – "daddy hat", "truck go down"
- enjoys being with other children
- begins to offer toys to peers and imitates other children's actions and words
- people can understand his or her words 50 to 60 per cent of the time
- forms words and sounds easily and effortlessly
- holds books the right way up and turns pages
- "reads" to stuffed animals or toys
- scribbles with crayons

By 9 months

- responds to his/her name
- responds to the telephone ringing or a knock at the door
- understands being told "no"
- gets what he or she wants through sounds and gestures, for example, reaching to be picked up
- plays social games with you, for example, peek-a-boo
- enjoys being around people
- babbles and repeats sounds – *babababa, duhduhduh*

By 18 months

- understands the concepts of "in and out", "off and on"
- points to several body parts when asked
- uses at least 20 words
- responds with words or gestures to simple questions – "Where's teddy?", "What's that?"
- demonstrates some pretend play with toys – gives teddy a drink
- makes at least four different consonant sounds – *b, n, d, g, w, h*
- enjoys being read to and looking at simple books with you
- points to pictures using one finger

By 30 months

- understands the concepts of size (big/little) and quantity (a little, a lot, more)
- uses some adult grammar – "two apples", "bird flying", "I jumped"
- uses more than 350 words
- uses action words – run, spill, fall
- begins taking short turns with other children, using both toys and words
- shows concern when another child is hurt or sad
- combines several actions in play – feeds doll then puts her to sleep; puts blocks in train then drives train and drops blocks off
- puts sounds at the start of most words
- produces words with two or more syllables or beats – "ba-na-na", "com-pu-ter", "a-pple"
- recognizes familiar logos and signs – stop sign
- remembers and understands familiar stories