

4 Months-6 Months

Guide to Developmental Milestones



Social Emotional Development

- Expresses unhappiness when an object or toy is taken away
- Expresses self using verbal/non-verbal cues (cries, laughs, reaches for a familiar adult)
- Begins to initiate ways to calm self



Motor Skills

- Reaches and grasps at toy
- Brings hands together in midline
- Shakes rattle when placed in hand
- Plays contently with fingers and hands
- Carefully studies object placed in hand
- Grasps a small object using his/her palm and fingers, but not thumb
- Begins to follow moving objects using eyes without moving head
- Scratches at surfaces and toys

When placed on belly

- Rolls to back
- Will push onto extended arms raising chest off floor
- Lifts arms and legs off floor making swimming movements

When placed on back

- Brings hands to feet
- Brings feet to mouth
- Lifts head off surface
- Rolls to belly

Supported sitting

- Gains control of head and arm movements
- Holds head steady when supported
- Will turn head from side to side
- Momentarily will lean on hands with minimal support (prop sitting)
- May begin sitting independently for brief periods

Supported standing

- Will stand with support and bear weight through legs
- When standing legs will be far apart

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Sensory

- Uses his/her hands and mouth for sensory exploration of objects
- Searches with his/her eyes for sound and scans objects briefly
- Enjoys movements and touch
- Able to self regulate by looking away from or falling asleep in over-stimulating environment



Speech, Language and Hearing

- Vocalizes to express displeasure
- Finds sound with eyes
- Babble increases
- Babble in chains (ex: babababa)
- Laughs
- Initiates "talking" by babbling to another person
- Turns head to find a hidden voice
- Responds to sound by vocalizing
- Vocalizes when playing alone or with caregiver
- Recognizes friendly or angry tone of voice
- Recognizes own name



Oral Motor and Feeding

- Mouths toys
- Strong gag
- Begin to introduce solid foods around 5 months of age



All children develop at their own pace, but you can use this guide to help you know what to look for along the way. If you have any questions or concerns regarding your infant's/child's development, please contact Milestones For Kids' Success at 630.792.1800 for a FREE developmental screening.

Disclaimer: This content was created by Milestones For Kids' Success and represents research available as of 10/2007. The information is intended to inform and educate. It is not a replacement for medical evaluation, advice, diagnosis or treatment by a healthcare professional.