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## Developmental Checklist

The following is a list of what to expect children to do between the ages of birth to age three. Not all children do the same things at the same ages. If your child is not doing some things on the list by the end of the age range, you may want to call 952-933-GROW (4769) for more information.

### By 3 Months:

- Smiles at someone talking
- Startles to loud noises
- Looks at someone talking
- Looks at own hands
- Feeding & gaining weight well
- Uses both sides of their body the same- no difference between right and left sides
- Watches face of adult who is talking to him/her
- Keeps hands open most of the time
- Lifts head while on stomach
- Kicks legs and moves arms freely
- Holds head erect and steady when upright at adult shoulder and when held in sitting
- Sucks/swallows without choking
- Cries/Fusses to indicate needs

### By 6 Months:

- Turns head toward source of sound
- Vocalizes a variety of sounds: coos, babbles, squeals and laughs
- Shows big smiles or other warm, joyful expressions, loves to be held close
- Able to accept comforting when upset (by touch or voice)
- Pushes up on arms while lying on stomach
- Rolls from stomach to back
- Shakes rattle to make noise
- Reaches for dangling toy with both hands
- Brings toy to mouth
- Plays with own hands
- Sits briefly when placed
- Takes weight on feet and is able to bounce – straighten and bend legs when held in standing
- Lifts legs to grab feet and play

### By 9 Months:

- Shows big smiles or other warm, joyful expressions

- Babbles (e.g. bababa, dadada, mamama)
- Shares back and forth sounds, smiles and facial expressions
- Responds/Turns to name
- Shows enjoyment of social games (peek-a-boo or patty cake)
- Shows preference to be with parent and fussed when separated
- Shows awareness when approached by strangers
- Takes pureed foods with difficulty
- Reaches for and picks up toy
- Rolls from back to stomach and stomach to back
- Sits and plays with a toy without using hands for support
- Gets into sitting position
- Gets into crawling position (hands & knees)
- Transfers toy from one hand to the other
- Bangs toy during play
- Looks to floor when something falls
- Moves forward on the floor

By 12 Months:

- Babbles (e.g. bababa, dadada,aba da), plays with a variety of vowel-consonant sounds
- Says “dada”or ‘mama” meaningfully
- Uses back and forth gestures such as showing and reaching
- Baby shows many emotions such as happiness, sadness, discomfort, anger
- Waves bye-bye
- Shares back and forth sounds, smiles and facial expressions
- Points with index finger
- Responds /Turns to name
- Purposefully activates a simple toy
- Puts objects into containers during play
- Plays peek-a-boo and pat-a-cake
- Crawls on hands and knees
- Gets to standing
- Walks/cruises along furniture
- Feeds self finger foods
- Turns pages of a cardboard book
- Finds a toy that is hidden while they watch
- Baby imitates sounds, actions, facial expressions of other adults

By 15 Months:

- Babbles (e.g. bababa, dadada, mamama)

- Uses one word in addition to “mama” and “dada”
- Tries to imitate new words
- Uses back and forth gestures such showing and reaching
- Turns pages of a cardboard book
- Waves bye-bye
- Points with index finger
- Follows simple routine directions
- Looks at familiar people when named
- Finds fully hidden objects
- Pulls off shoes, socks and mittens
- Points to familiar pictures in book on request
- Uses common objects (comb, spoon, book) in the way they are intended
- Visually checks back with parents while playing
- Walks independently
- Climbs or creeps up stairs

By 18 Months:

- Uses 10-20 words that are understood
- Looks at familiar objects when named
- Points to at least three body parts or clothing items
- Plays with doll (e.g. feeding, hugging, patting)
- Turns container upside down to dump
- Stacks 2-3 blocks
- Eats with a spoon
- Drinks from an open cup with help
- Likes to help with simple household tasks
- Turns to adult for help when in trouble
- Likes to do things by him/herself and may be stubborn
- Is very happy actively exploring environment and playing with everyday objects.
- If you point at a toy across the room, your child will follow your point to look at it.
- Sustains attention to an activity for 1-2 minutes
- Imitates familiar actions; hold baby doll, ‘talk’ on phone
- Climbs on and off furniture
- Creeps down stairs

By 24 months:

- Uses 20-50 words
- Uses 2 word meaningful phrases without imitating or repeating
- Points to familiar pictures in books or request

- Plays with a variety of toys as intended
- Does 3 piece shape sorter
- Tries to put on own shoes
- Eats a variety of food textures
- Child is able to participate in simple “clean up” activity
- Temper tantrums are normal and to be expected
- Enjoys simple, pretend play such as talking on the phone, caring for a baby doll
- Child is very interested in other children; plays near but not with them
- Walks up and down steps with help
- Kicks a ball

By 30 Months:

- Uses 2 word meaningful phrases without imitating or repeating
- Follows new directions
- Child is beginning to understand others feelings and can identify when another child is angry or happy
- Asks simple questions (e.g. what’s that?)
- Does well on community outings
- Plays with a variety of toys as intended
- Independently engages in 2-3 step pretend play (e.g.feed baby and put to bed, fill dump truck, drives and empties)
- Undresses self
- Child is able to group similar objects (such as balls, blocks or cars)
- Turns knob to open door
- Imitates simple crayon strokes
- Runs with ease
- Jumps off bottom step

By 36 Months:

- Can be understood by unfamiliar adult more than half time
- Uses personal pronouns (e.g. me, my, mine)
- Talks about things past and present
- Interested in playing around other children
- Does well on community outings
- Imitates actions to songs and finger plays
- Follows directions with words like big and little
- Completes a 5-6 piece puzzle
- Plays with a variety of toys as intended
- Listens to short children’s book
- Dresses self with minimal help
- Matches colors and shapes

- Rote counts to 5
- Understands the concept of 2
- Attention span is increasing; child may often stay with an activity for 5 minutes
- Walk up and down steps without support
- Balances on one foot for a few seconds

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