

Questions about your child's playing?

Here is a checklist of play skills. Playing is how your child learns. Remember 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
- Looks at someone talking
- Watches face of adult who is talking to him/her

By 6 Months:

- Shakes rattle to make noise
- Reaches for dangling toy with both hands
- Brings toy to mouth
- Plays with own hands

By 9 Months:

- Shares back and forth sounds, smiles and facial expressions
- Shows enjoyment of social games (peek-a-boo or patty cake)
- Reaches for and picks up toy
- Sits and plays with a toy without using hands for support
- Transfers toy from one hand to the other
- Bangs toy during play
- Looks to floor when something falls

By 12 Months:

- Babbles (e.g. bababa, dadada,aba da), plays with a variety of vowel-consonant sounds
- Uses back and forth gestures such as showing and reaching
- Waves bye-bye
- Shares back and forth sounds, smiles and facial expressions
- Points with index finger
- Responds /Turns to name
- Baby imitates sounds, actions, facial expressions of other adults
- Purposefully activates a simple toy
- Puts objects into containers during play
- Plays peek-a-boo and pat-a-cake

By 15 Months:

- Uses back and forth gestures such as showing and reaching
- Points with index finger

- Follows simple routine directions
- Points to familiar pictures in book on request
- Turns pages of a cardboard book
- Finds a toy that is hidden while they watch
- Turns pages of a cardboard book
- Waves bye-bye
- Looks at familiar people when named
- Finds fully hidden objects
- Pulls off shoes, socks and mittens

By 18 Months:

- Looks at familiar objects when named
- Points to at least three body parts or clothing items
- Turns to adult for help when in trouble
- If you point at a toy across the room, your child will follow your point to look at it.
- Turns container upside down to dump
- Stacks 2-3 blocks
- Likes to help with simple household tasks
- Likes to do things by him/herself and may be stubborn
- Is very happy actively exploring environment and playing with everyday objects.
- Sustains attention to an activity for 1-2 minutes
- Imitates familiar actions; hold baby doll, 'talk' on phone

By 24 months:

- Points to familiar pictures in books on request
- Plays with a variety of toys as intended
- Does 3 piece shape sorter
- Tries to put on own shoes
- 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

By 30 Months:

- Follows new directions
- 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. feeds 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

By 36 Months:

- 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
- Matches colors and shapes
- Imitates actions to songs and finger plays
- Follows directions with words like big and little
- Rote counts to 5
- Understands the concept of 2
- Attention span is increasing; child may often stay with an activity for 5 minutes