

How Your Baby Grows

Each child develops and matures at his or her own rate. We offer this list only to give some general guideposts along the way. Do not be concerned if your child is not exhibiting every characteristic listed for that particular age. Development tends to even out as the child grows older. This is a list of some of the things you might see your child do as he or she passes through childhood.

Your newborn...

- sleeps a lot
- likes to look at faces
- moves mainly by reflexes
- can focus on objects up to eight inches away
- likes to be held closely
- is hungry every few hours
- may be fussy and cry often

Your one-month-old...

- likes to look at patterns
- often keeps hands in fists
- turns head sideways when placed on stomach
- cries when hungry, tired, wet, or lonely
- gets scared by loud noises, bright lights and rough handling

Your two-month-old...

- may recognize your face
can follow your movement
- can quiet self by sucking
keeps hands open more often
- begins to show unhappiness,
excitement
- tries to hold head up when held
upright

Your three-month-old...

- smiles easily
- has improved head and eye control
- can lean on elbows while on
stomach
- gurgles and coos in response to
sounds
- shows more regular sleeping,
eating, alertness patterns
- may reach for an object and hold
onto it for a few moments

Your four-month-old...

- may roll over
- laughs out loud
- enjoys play, games, toys
- maintains grasp when object is put
into hand
- can lift head and chest when on
stomach

Your five-month-old...

- stops crying when you talk
- smiles and babbles to gain attention
- wants to hold, touch, taste
everything
- is starting to coordinate hands and
eyes
- holds head steady when in sitting
position

Your six-month-old...

- sits up with support
- opens mouth for spoon
- may start showing “stranger anxiety”
- babbles, coos, squeals to communicate
- twists in all directions, turns head freely

Your seven-month-old...

- creeps, may crawl
- may have teeth coming in
- may show signs of persistence
- transfers objects from hand to hand
- gets excited when its time to play
- begins to learn the meaning of “no”

Your eight-month-old...

- waves “bye-bye”
- begins to crawl
- mimics your behavior
- sits easily with good head and body control
- uses furniture to pull up to standing position
- may stand with hands free while leaning against something

Your nine-month-old...

- plays alone
- cries when separated from mother
- uncovers a toy he has seen hidden
- develops coordination of both hands
- tries to gain attention and approval
- develops movement of thumb and forefinger

Your ten-month-old...

- fears strange places
- may have trouble sleeping
- prefers certain favorite toys
- may walk, holding onto something

Your eleven-month-old...

- drinks from a cup
- climbs stairs, squats, stoops
- may walk, holding onto furniture
- begins to understand words and gestures
- when praised, repeats actions for further praise

Your twelve-month-old...

- follows simple directions
- may refuse to eat new foods
- still prefers crawling to walking
- can turn body around by standing
- shows more interest in feeding self
- can group a few objects by shape and color
- begins to see self as definitely separate from others

