

Early Development Network

Region 26
Grand Island, NE
Serving Hall, Howard and Merrick



Developmental Milestones Birth to Age 3

Children grow and learn at different rates. Use the following guidelines to see if a child is developing as expected.



By 3 months:

- Makes sucking sounds and baby sounds such as “aah” and “ee”
- Makes eye contact
- Pushes up on arms and holds head up
- Stays awake for one hour or longer
- Moves arms and legs
- Looks at own hands and surroundings
- Follows a moving toy with eyes and reaches for toy
- Smiles in response to adult voices
- Sleeps for three to four hours at a time

By 6 months:

- Babbles when alone
- Makes sounds like “dada” or “baba”
- Rolls over
- Sits with support
- Begins to feed self
- Moves objects from one hand to the other hand
- Smiles, laughs, squeals and imitates razzing noise
- Holds objects and puts in mouth
- Shows interest in toys

By 9 months:

- Responds to own name
- Smiles at self in mirror
- Sits without support
- Understands words such as “bye bye”
- Crawls on hands and knees and moves forward by scooting on bottom
- Pulls up to standing position using furniture
- Plays games such as peek-a-boo or pat-a-cake
- Drinks from a cup with help
- Pokes with index finger

By 12 months:

- Takes a few steps alone
- Picks up objects using thumb and first finger
- Bangs two blocks together
- Puts objects into a container
- Drinks from a cup
- Looks for dropped or hidden objects
- Waves bye-bye
- Feeds self
- Points to objects

By 18 months:

- Walks quickly and begins to run
- Points to one or more body parts when named
- Pulls toy while walking
- Stacks three or four blocks
- Says 15 to 20 words
- Listens to a story, looks at pictures and names objects
- Follows simple directions, such as sit down
- Scribbles and imitates line drawing
- Throws a ball

By 24 months:

- Says more than 20 words
- Puts two or three words together in a sentence
- Kicks a ball
- Walks up and down stairs one step at a time
- Stacks five or six blocks
- Holds crayon with thumb and finger
- Follows two-step directions, such as “pick it up and put it away”
- Imitates other children and adults

By 36 months:

- Speaks and is understood by others
- Plays with other children
- Jumps in place and balances on one foot
- Uses imagination in play, such as playing house
- Rides a tricycle
- Knows own name and age
- Tries to sing songs with words
- Sorts shapes, such as a circle, triangle and square
- Buttons large buttons