

Early Childhood Developmental Milestones

Every child develops at his or her own pace. Child development tends to follow a fairly predictable path. This child development chart is for milestones from ages 2 to 5 years. If your child's development seems to be delayed in certain areas, you may want to take your child to a screening.

Age	Speech/Language	Motor	Social/Emotional	Self-Help	Cognitive Skills
By 2 years old	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Points to 5 named body parts -Identifies 3 named pictures of objects -Speaks about 50 words -Links two words together -Uses some adjectives (pretty, big) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Walks upstairs holding railing with both feet on each step -Squats to pick up object -Runs fairly well -Catches a bounced ball -Moves on ride toys without pedals -Builds block tower -Imitates vertical and horizontal stroke -Imitates circular movements -Turns pages one at a time 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Enjoys imitative play -Enjoys being center of attention -Expresses affection -Enjoys solitary play (coloring, building, books) -Experiences a strong sense of self-importance -Becomes interested in playing with other children -Separation anxiety begins to fade 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Expresses need to urinate or defecate -Sits on potty chair -Unzips, unbuttons -Helps with simple household tasks such as cleaning up toys -Unwraps loosely wrapped food 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Uses paint and play dough -Matches objects to pictures -Assembles nesting items -Places circle, square and triangle in form board puzzle -Remembers where objects belong -Begins to sort objects by shape and color
By 3 years old	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Understands two prepositions (in/on) -Recognizes number concept of one -Differentiates between big and little objects -Uses plurals -Relates recent experiences -Delivers simple messages -Responds to and makes verbal greetings -Knows full name -Demonstrates a vocabulary of 200 to 500+ words, expressively -Speaks in 3-4 word sentences -Uses pronouns (I, you, we) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Stands on one foot momentarily without assistance -Walks up and down stairs with alternating feet holding railing alone. -Hops on preferred foot -Pedals tricycle -Copies circle -Starting to show hand preference -Winds mechanical toy -Builds 9+ block tower 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Avoids simple hazards -Shares occasionally -Helps in household activities -Separates easily from family -Begins to obey and respect simple rules -Participates in circle games -Takes pride in own achievements -Imitates parents and playmates -Takes turns 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Feeds self with spoon, fork -Pulls up pants -Gets drink unassisted -Uses napkin -Puts on shoes -Helps with bathing -Takes responsibility for toileting-requires assistance in wiping -Sleeps 10-15 hours daily -May eliminate nap -Dresses with supervision -Blows nose with assistance -Turns faucet on/off 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Identifies familiar objects with functions -Matches similar pictures of objects -Matches body parts with functions -Completes simple 3-4 piece puzzle -Stacks rings in correct order (by size) -Recognizes adjectives/attributes (big/little & colors/shapes) -Points to larger or smaller of two things -Sorts primary colors -Points to primary colors when named -Asks 'why' questions -Understands the concepts of same and different

<p>By 4 years old</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Responds appropriately to ‘yes/no’, ‘where’, ‘what’, ‘why’, ‘how’, ‘when’, ‘who’, ‘whose’ and ‘what would you do if--’ questions -Identifies pictures of objects by function (“show me the one that...”) -Describes what is happening in environment -States age and sex -Uses words to give attributes of familiar objects (shape, size, color, texture) -Turn takes in conversation -Asks wh- questions -Uses 4 to 5 word complete sentences that include subject-verb-object -Uses ‘I’ instead of name -Speaks clearly enough for strangers to understand -Makes the following sounds correctly by 3 or 4 years old: m,b,n,t,p,d,k,g,w, h, and vowels 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Stands on one foot for five seconds -Walks on line, heel to toe -Hops assigned distance on preferred foot -Catches thrown 8-inch ball with arms and body -Throws 3-inch ball -Demonstrates hand preference -Creases paper with finger -Completes 6-10 piece inset puzzle -Copies line, circle, cross -Uses scissors to cut along a line -Dresses and undresses 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Tells own first and last name -Calls attention to own performance -Expresses enthusiasm for work, play -Identifies own feelings -Responds appropriately to social contact made by familiar adults -Cooperates with playmates -May have best friend 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Puts away toys -Wipes up spills -Fixes bowls of dry cereal and milk independently -Puts on pull-up and pullover garments -Brushes teeth -Holds fork in fingers -Buttons -Seldom has toileting accidents -Washes and dries hands and face without assistance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Knows parts of day for specific activity -Knows a few songs completely -Identifies qualitative and quantitative concepts -Includes a 3 to 4 part logical sequence during pretend play -Uses materials to construct other objects -Becomes involved in more complex imaginary play -Draws a person with 4 or more body parts -Understands concepts of morning, afternoon and night
<p>By 5 years old</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Speaks in 5 to 6 word sentences -Vocabulary of 1500+words -Understands rhyming -Responds to instructions given in a small group -States full name & address -Communicates cause and effect relationships -Tells two familiar stories including all important parts without prompts -Uses correct word order in ‘wh-’ questions -Makes the following sounds correctly: sh, ch, l, l blends (Note: the sounds of v, j th, s, z, r,s blends & r blends should develop by 7 years of age) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Pedal small bike with training wheels -Walk backwards with hands at side -Hop forward on non-preferred foot for 3 feet -Catch 8-inch ball in hands -Open lock with key -Complete an 11-15 piece inset puzzle -Grasp pencil correctly -Trace all letters of alphabet -Write first name with a model 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Play cooperatively with peers for extended periods of time without requiring adult intervention -Identifies special friends -Seeks peer acceptance -Takes turns, shares without prompts -Follow rules -Wants to do things alone 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Spreads with a knife -Takes responsibility for all toileting aspects -Blows nose independently upon request -Dresses unsupervised -Puts shoes on correct feet -Bathes without assistance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Experiments with cause and effect in play -Identifies simple absurdities -Gives correct number to 5 when asked -Identifies letters of his/her name at random -Counts to 10 -Draw a person with at least 6 body parts