

Developmental Milestones

A developmental delay is identified through assessments of simple skills. Listed below are some milestones broken down by behavioral categories that might help you identify if your child is in need of further evaluation.

Milestone	Typical Age Of Presentation	Concern If Absent At:
Searching for lost object in several places other than place object was last seen	18 months	24 months
Playing with toys in functional way	18 months	24 months
Re-enacting familiar activities	18 months	30 months
Being able to imitate actions later	18 months	30 months
Using one object to stand for another object in play	18 months	30 months
Using imaginary objects in real play	36 months	48 months

Social Emotional Development

Here are some goals at various early ages that you should keep in mind.

At 3 months:

- Can be calm/recover from crying with comforting.
- Able to be alert/looks at speaker when talked to.

At 5 months:

- Displays positive affect toward primary caregiver.
- Displays full range of emotions.

At 9 months:

- Makes purposeful two-way interactions.

Milestone	Typical Age Of Presentation	Concern If Absent At:
Shared attention: Do you see what I see?	18 months	30 months
Showing strong sense of self: No, mine.	18 months	30 months
Playing side by side with single peer	24 months	36 months
Separating from parent without crying	36 months	48 months
Labeling feelings in self	36 months	48 months
Taking turns and sharing	36 months	48 months
Playing group games with simple rules	48 months	60 months

Language Development

The first five years of life are critical. This is when significant language development occurs.

At 1 year:

- understands simple requests.
- very little verbal expressive ability (2-4 words).

At 5 years:

- defines familiar words.
- argues.
- tells stories.
- comments on future events.
- lies.

Milestone	Typical Age Of Presentation	Concern If Absent At:
Combining two ideas	18 months	24 months
Naming one picture in a book	18 months	27 months
Following two-step commands	18 months	27 months
Making three- to four-word sentences	24 months	36 months
Using pronouns appropriately	24 months	30 months
Name use of common objects	30 months	36 months
Identify two colors	36 months	42 months
Understandable to a stranger	36 months	48 months

SOURCES

Zukerman, B.S.; Frank, D.A.; & Augustyn, M. Infancy and Toddler Years. In Levine, M.D.; Carey, W.B.; & Crocker, A.C. (1999) Developmental-Behavioral Pediatrics – 3rd Edition. Philadelphia: Saunders.

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