

## 9-12 Months

### Cognitive

- Adult starts and stops toy. After the toy's movement stops, the infant touches the toy or adult to reactivate the toy
- Turns over the blank side of a card to view picture
- Intentionally drops toy and watches it fall

### Communicative

- Briefly stops behavior when told "no"
- Begins to relate names and objects
- Turns when called by name
- Gives object upon request
- Claps hands and waves on command
- Articulates most speech sounds
- Gestures/vocalizes wants and needs
- Directs others physically; pats, pulls, pushes, and tugs

### Social or Emotional

- Repeats actions that elicit laughter/attention from others
- Plays simple games: pat-a-cake, peek-a-boo
- Often attached to favorite toy or blanket
- Exhibits fear or reluctance toward strangers
- Expresses affection (e.g., hugging, patting)
- Expresses two or more emotions (e.g., pleasure, fear, sadness)

### Adaptive

- Pulls off own socks
- Closes mouth on rim of cup but loses liquid from corners of mouth
- Feeds self finger foods
- Picks up cup and takes 4-5 swallows
- Begins to cooperate when being dressed (e.g., helps put arms in holes)
- Fusses when diaper needs to be changed
- Bowels move regularly



- Cruises holding on to furniture
- Can poke with index finger
- Stands alone momentarily
- Walks with adult holding one hand
- Creeps well
- Claps hands
- Corrals ball with arms and hands when sitting with legs spread apart
- Moves body to music

## 12-18 Months

### Cognitive

- Manages 3-4 toys by setting one aside when given a new toy
- Pulls object up from floor with string
- Gives toy to someone to wind up
- Activates toy after adult demonstration
- Rolls wheeled toys
- Places things in cup; dumps out contents
- Demonstrates use of everyday items (e.g., pretends to drink from cup)

- Says "Mama" or "Dada" indiscriminately
- Points to objects when named
- Responds vocally to "wh" questions
- Acknowledges others' speech by eye contact, speech, or repetition of the word said
- Uses sentence-like intonation (jargon); imitates some words
- Uses single words; says 3-20 words
- Protests by saying "no," shaking head, moving away, or frowning
- Points to wanted object
- Says "all gone," asks for "more"
- Teases, scolds, warns using gestures and vocalizations
- Responds to the directions "in" and "on"

- When faced with a novel situation, looks to parents for reassurance
- Shows emerging independence by moving around a familiar room in a playful, exploratory manner (still may require some supervision and encouragement)
- When playing on his or her own, may periodically return to the parent for reassurance and attention (likes to know adult is near)
- Plays alone for short periods
- Contacts with peers center on a toy, an adult, etc.
- Brings toy to share with caregiver

- Chews textured foods
- Spoon-feeds and drinks from cup independently—frequent spills
- Sleeps through the night; one nap during the day
- Cooperates when dressing and undressing
- Stirs with spoon
- Sips liquid from cup using a straw

- Squats to play
- Kicks stationary ball forward
- Drops objects into small container
- Stacks 2-4 objects on top of one another
- Starts and stops in walking
- Walks up and down stairs with assistance, placing both feet on each step.
- Enjoys pushing or pulling toys while walking
- Takes independent steps
- Maintains balance while kneeling
- Walks backward
- Creeps backward down steps
- Holds crayon with fingers, hand on top, forearm turned so thumb is directed downward

## 18-24 Months

### Cognitive

- Looks at storybook pictures with adult, naming or pointing to familiar objects on request
- Uses stick to get out-of-reach toy
- Activates toy without adult demonstration
- Looks for familiar person who has left the room
- Spontaneously names objects
- Turns pages in book
- Inserts shapes into matching slots

- Says 50 words
- Names familiar objects
- Uses ritual words "hi," "bye"
- Understands approximately 300 words
- Listens as pictures are named
- Points to body parts
- Responds to yes/no questions by shaking or nodding head
- Produces words with consonant-vowel-consonant structure
- Combines words to make two-word phrases
- Mean Sentence Length=1.8 words
- Uses commands (e.g., "move"), possessives (e.g., "mine"), reactions (e.g., "owwee")
- Follows a series of two related commands (e.g., "Pick up the ball and give it to me")

- Has temper tantrums when frustrated
- Frequently does the opposite of what he or she is asked to do
- Curious, gets into everything
- Often defiant; says "no" to many requests
- Enjoys simple make-believe
- Has difficulty sharing
- Usually plays alone even when other children are present
- Helps put things away
- Insists on trying to do many things without help (e.g., eating with spoon, drinking from cup)
- Engages in make-believe and pretend play
- Plays well for brief time in groups of two or three children

- Begins using fork
- Squats, holds self, or verbalizes bowel and bladder needs (50% of the time)
- Brushes teeth with assistance
- Tries to wash own hands and face
- Removes loose clothing such as jacket or shorts without assistance

- Scribbles vigorously with crayons or markers
- Imitates vertical strokes
- Walks on a straight line
- Stacks 4-6 objects
- Following demonstration, throws small ball overhand at least 3 feet
- Following demonstration, throws small ball underhand at least 3 feet



## 24-30 Months

### Cognitive

- Understands "one," "all" (e.g., Give me one block)
- Sequences related actions in play such as preparing food for doll, feeding it, wiping its mouth
- Matches an object to its picture
- Uses pretend objects in play
- Repeats finger play with words and actions
- Matches simple shapes such as circle, square, and triangle

- Understands approximately 500 words
- May omit some final consonants or substitute one consonant for another (e.g., /w/ for /r/)
- Says 200 words
- Knows "big/little"
- Answers "what/where" questions (e.g., "What do you regular with?")
- Uses some regular plurals (e.g., cats)
- Asks basic questions ("Daddy gone?")
- Uses simple "what/where" questions (e.g., "What's that?")
- Whispers

- Asks for assistance when having difficulty
- Shy with strangers, especially adults
- Claims certain articles as being his or her own
- Attempts to comfort others in distress
- Sings familiar songs with adults
- Shows pride in accomplishments
- Separates from parent in familiar surroundings without crying

- Takes off own shoes, socks, and some pants
- Independently eats entire meal with spoon
- Tries to wash self
- Less frequent eliminations supervised
- Sits on toilet for at least 1 minute
- Puts on socks, coat, and shirt
- Opens door by turning handle

- Imitates circular, vertical, and horizontal strokes
- Rolls, pounds, and squeezes clay
- Stacks 6-7 blocks
- Walks up steps, alternating feet in adult fashion while holding on
- Jumps in place with both feet together
- Snips paper with scissors
- Catches ball from straight arm position, trapping ball against chest
- Uses one hand consistently in most activities

## 30-36 Months

### Cognitive

- Draws face from model
- Matches three colors
- Matches objects by color, shape, and size

- Understands approximately 900 words
- Points to pictures of common objects described by their use (e.g., "Show me what you eat with.")
- Knows third-person pronouns (e.g., he, she)
- Articulates /p/, /m/, /n/, /w/, and /h/
- Says 500 words
- Mean Sentence Length=3.4 words
- Uses regular past tense forms
- Beginning of question-asking stage using "what," "who," "why," and "how many"

### Social or Emotional

- Says "please" and "thank you" when reminded
- Spends most group time in solitary activity, watching other children
- States whether he or she is a boy or a girl

### Adaptive

- Gets drink from fountain
- Stabs food with fork and brings to mouth
- Daytime control of toileting needs with occasional accidents



- Threads four small beads on string
- Copies drawing a circle
- Stands on one foot for 3 seconds
- Can jump over a string 2 inches off the floor

## 36-42 Months

### Cognitive

- Counts by rote to 5
- Stacks rings on peg in order of size
- Understands "more" (e.g., more dogs)
- Listens to simple stories
- Names primary colors
- Makes horizontal train of cubes in imitation
- Builds bridge using three blocks

- Understands approximately 1,900 words
- Responds to two unrelated commands (e.g., "Put your cup on the table and turn off the TV.")
- Uses final consonants most of the time
- Says 800 words
- Mean Sentence Length = 4.3 words
- Uses regular past tense forms
- Beginning of question-asking stage using "what," "who," "why," and "how many"

### Social or Emotional

- Calls attention to own performance
- Shares toys
- Uses complex speech in interactions with other children in play and social situations
- Shows affection to younger children by hugging and kissing



- Hangs clothing on hook
- Takes responsibility for toileting
- Washes hands unassisted
- Cleans up spills

- Uses vertical, horizontal, and circular motions when drawing
- Hammers nails and pegs
- Pedals and steers small tricycle
- Kicks a large ball
- Cuts on line



## 42-48 Months

### Cognitive

- Organizes pretend games (e.g., tea party, play house, etc.)
- Counts five objects
- Draws a human face
- Sorts by shapes, colors
- Tells own age and full name
- Matches objects that have the same function (e.g., comb and brush)
- Sorts objects into categories—may not be able to label categories (e.g., animals, food)
- Understands concept of the number 3 (e.g., "Give me 3")

- Knows "in front of" and "behind"
- Understands approximately 2,000-2,000 words
- Responds to three commands (e.g., "Pick up the spoon, put it in the cup, and bring it to me.")
- Articulates /b/, /d/, /k/, /g/, /f/, and /y/
- Mean Sentence Length=4.4 words
- Tells how common objects are used
- Does simple verbal analogies (e.g., "Daddy is a man, Mommy is a [blank].")
- Uses contractions (e.g., I'll, can't)

- Usually takes turns
- Spontaneously greets familiar person by hugging
- Shows empathy for others
- Separates from parents without crying
- Begins cooperative play
- Plays dress-up
- Shows off; repeats rhymes, songs, or dances for others
- Asks to use other person's belongings
- Plays group games with simple rules

- Sleeps through the night; no naps during the day
- Can pour milk and juice with some assistance
- Eats entire meal independently
- Uses all eating utensils
- Puts on boots and mittens
- Wipes nose; may need to be reminded
- Brushes teeth independently
- Tells adult of toilet needs in time to get to toilet
- Manipulates large buttons and snaps
- Gets drink from faucet without assistance
- Sets table with assistance
- Washes hands, face without assistance

- Copies drawing a cross
- Walks down steps, alternating feet
- Holds crayon between first two fingers and thumb, not with fist
- Forms simple shapes out of clay (e.g., ball, snake, pancake)
- Runs around obstacles, turns corners
- Climbs ladder of low play equipment
- Balances on one foot for 5-10 seconds without support
- Hops on one foot a few steps
- Walks on tiptoes for 3 seconds

## 48-54 Months

### Cognitive

- Builds pyramid of six blocks
- Plays with words (e.g., creates own rhyming words)
- Stacks five objects in order of size
- Sorts group of objects in more than one way (e.g., by shape and then by size)
- Copies own name
- Retells story from picture book with reasonable accuracy

- Understands approximately 2,000-2,500 words
- Knows "between," "above," "below," "top," and "bottom"
- Few consonant omissions and substitutions
- Says 1,500 words
- Uses possessives consistently (e.g., boy's, cat's)
- Mean Sentence Length = 4.6 words
- Identifies first, last, and middle

- Shows pride in accomplishments
- Indicates that he or she feels sorry
- Usually prefers playing with other children to playing alone
- Talks about own feelings
- Understands rules of fair play
- Accepts mild, frequent teasing without becoming too agitated
- Waits for turn when playing in group games (e.g., red rover, steal the bacon, tag, relays)
- Selects own friends
- Has best friend of same gender

- Independently fastens seatbelt in automobile
- Zipper efficiently
- Laces shoes
- Takes care of own toileting needs; often wants privacy in the bathroom
- Serves self at table (parent holds serving dish)
- Dresses and undresses independently, including front fastenings; requires assistance with ties and back fastenings

- Jumps over objects 5-6 inches high; lands with feet together
- Cuts circle with scissors
- Walks, swinging arms and legs freely in cross pattern similar to adult walk pattern
- Builds steps with six blocks
- Draws a straight line to connect two dots that are approximately 5 inches apart
- Turns a somersault
- Gallops, leading with one foot and transferring weight smoothly and evenly