

Early Childhood Development

Age	3 Months	6 Months	9 Months	12 Months	18 Months	2 Years	3 Years	4 Years
Social Interaction, Speech and Hearing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - startles to loud sounds - can make eye contact - smiles at mother when held - makes cooing and babbling sounds (e.g. mm-mm; bah; gah) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - smiles - responds to familiar people - joins different babbling sounds together (e.g. ma-mi) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - repeats sounds (e.g. ma-ma-ma) - babbles tunefully; a variety of babbles (e.g. da-da-ma; ta-ki-gi; pa-ma-pa-pa) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - understands simple instructions (e.g. 'no'; 'come' give it to me') if accompanied by gestures, body language - uses sounds with meaning and some recognisable words 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - uses single words and sometimes two words together - makes choices (e.g. 'banana' when asked 'do you want a banana or an apple?') 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - understands simple instructions (e.g. 'Go and get your shoes') - uses two word sentences that can be understood (e.g. 'Mama gone'; 'Danny naughty'; 'big car') 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - understands questions (e.g. 'What is that?'; 'Where is the dog?'; 'Who wants ice cream?') - puts words together to make a sentence (e.g. 'I go to Grandma'; 'Anna can swim'; 'I don't want to!') 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - can have a conversation with other children while playing
Vision and Fine Movements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - can follow dangling object from side to side - crosses midline - brings hands to mouth - reaches with arms - uses fingers to rake objects 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - eyes can now start to track vertically and diagonally and are now independent of head movement - reaches for toys - can hold own bottle - can pass objects from hand to hand 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - strong grip - can now reach further for toys and use both hands - starts putting in and taking out, sees how things work together; looks for lost items 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - uses finger to point at and explore things - starts to develop a pinch grasp; thumb, index and middle finger (e.g. to pick up raisins) - can release objects easily - finger feeds and assists with cup and spoon feeding - can now see depth (knows how far something is) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - can now use fingertip pinch - one hand stabilising while the other manipulates - is interested in books and understands pictures 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - has power and precision of grasp - can manipulate objects in the hand - uses hands for more functional activities (e.g. taking off clothes, feeding herself, holding a crayon and scribbling) - can look at things and talk about them without needing to touch them 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - can now draw a circle and make a cross with a crayon - can string beads (each hand doing something different) - watches and imitates other children or mother 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - starting to draw a potato man (i.e. a body with arms and legs; may have fingers and toes) - uses hands and eyes together in coordinated tasks such as catching a large ball.
Large Movements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - can push up while on tummy - holds head up and in the midline (symmetrical) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - can start to sit using arms for support - attempts to move if lying on tummy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - can come into crawling position from independent sitting - can rock backwards and forwards and crawl 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - can walk with a wide base/ holding onto someone's hand - cruises along furniture 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - walks independently - can squat and hold onto an object with both hands 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - can kick a ball 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - can climb objects (e.g. jungle gym/ tree - using arms and legs at the same time) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - can now hop on one leg