Developmental milestones: 0 through 12 months

	1 month	2 months	3 months	4 months	5 months	6 months	7 months	8 months	9 months	10 months	11 months	12 months
Gross motor	Turns head in supineChin up in prone	 Chest up in prone Tries to steady head briefly when held 	 Props on forearms in prone Rolls to side 	 Sits with trunk support No head lag when pulled to sit Props on wrists Rolls front to back 	 Sits with pelvic support Rolls back to front Parachute sits with arms supporting trunk (anterior protection) 	 Sits momentarily propped on hands Pivots in prone (on belly) Bears weight on one hand in prone 	 Bounces when held Sits without support (steady) Puts arms out to sides for balance (lateral protection) 	 Gets into sitting Commando crawls Pulls to sitting/kneeling 	 "Stands" on feet and hands Begins creeping Pulls to stand Crawls with all four limbs straightened (bear walks) 	 Creeps well Cruises around furniture with two hands Stands, one hand held Walks, two hands held 	 Walks, one hand held Pivots in sitting Cruises furniture holding on with one hand Stands for a few seconds 	 Stands well with arms high and legs splayed (posterior protection) Independent steps
Fine motor/writing	■ Hands fisted near face	 Hands unfisted 50% Retains rattle if placed in hand Holds hands together 	 Hands unfisted 50% Inspects fingers Bats at objects 	 Clutches at clothes Reaches persistently Plays with rattle Holds hands predominately open 	 Grasps cube using whole hand (palmar grasp) Transfers objects: Handmouth-hand Holds hands together Reaches/grasps dangling ring 	 Transfers hand-hand Rakes pellet Takes second cube, holds on to one Reaches with one hand 	 Grasps using side of hand (radial-palmar grasp) 	 Bangs spoon after a demo Grasps with all four fingers and side of thumb (scissor grasp) Takes cube out of cup Pulls large peg out 	 Grasps with two finger and thumb below (radial- digital) Bangs two cubes together 	 Clumsy release of cube Grasps pellet with side of index finger and thumb (inferior pincer grasp) Isolates index finger and pokes 	Throws objectsStirs with spoon	 Scribbles after demo Fine pincer grasp of pellet Holds crayon Attempts tower of two cubes
Self-help	Sucks well	 Opens mouth at sight of breast or bottle 	Brings hands to mouth	 Briefly holds onto breast or bottle 	 Gums/mouths pureed food 	Feeds self crackersPlaces hands on bottle	Refuses excess food	Holds own bottleFinger feeds Cheerios or string beans	Bites, chews cookie	 Drinks (not sucks) from cup held for him/her 	Cooperates in dressing	 Cooperates in dressing Finger feeds part of meal Takes hat off
Cognitive/academic	 Gazes at black-white objects Follows face 	 Follows large highly contrasting objects Recognizes mother 	 Reaches for parent's face Follows objects moved in circle (in supine) Regards toys 	 Mouths objects Stares longer at novel faces than familiar ones Shakes rattle Reaches for ring/rattle 	 Turns head to look for dropped spoon Regards pellet or small cracker 	 Touches reflection and vocalizes Removes cloth on face Bangs and shakes toys 	 Explores different aspects of a toy Observes cube in each hand Finds partially hidden object 	 Seeks object after it falls silently to the floor 	 Inspects parts of a bell Rings bell after demo Pulls string to obtain an attached toy out of reach 	 Uncovers toy under cloth Pokes at pellet in bottle Tries to put cube in cup, but may not be able to let go 	 Finds toy under cup Looks at pictures in book 	 Rattles spoon in cup Lifts box lid to find toy
Social/emotional	 Discriminates mother's voice Cries out of distress 	 Reciprocal smiling: Responds to adult voice and smiles 	 Expression of disgust (eg, sour taste, loud sound) Visually follows person who is moving across a room 	 Smiles spontaneously at pleasurable sight/sound Stops crying at parent's voice To and fro alternating vocalizations 	 Recognizes caregiver visually Forms attachment: Relationship to caregiver 	 Stranger anxiety: Recognizes familiar versus unfamiliar people 	 Looks from object to parent and back when wanting help (eg, with a wind-up toy) 	 Lets parents know when happy versus upset Engages in gaze monitoring: Adult looks away and child follows adult glance with own eyes 	 Uses sounds to get attention Separation anxiety Follows a point "Oh look at" Recognizes familiar people visually 	 Experiences fear Looks preferentially when name is called 	 Gives objects to adult for action after demonstration (lets adult know he/she needs help) 	 Shows objects to parent to share interest Points in order to get desired object (proto- imperative pointing)
Receptive language	Startles to loud noise	■ Alerts to voice/sound	Regards speaker	 Orients head in direction of a voice Stops crying to soothing voice 	Begins to respond to name	Stops momentarily to "no"Gestures for "up"	 Looks toward familiar object when named Attends to music 	 Responds to "come here" Looks for family members when asked (eg, "Where's Mama?", etc) 	 Enjoys gesture games Orients to name well Turns head upward and diagonally to view source of sound 	Enjoys peek-a-booWaves "bye-bye" back	 Stops activity when told "no" Bounces to music 	 Follows one-step command with gesture Recognizes names of two objects, looks when named
Expressive language	Makes sounds other than crying	 Coos Social smile (six weeks) Vowel-like noises 	ChucklesVocalizes when talked to	Laughs out loudVocalizes when alone	 Says "Ah-goo" Razz, squeal Expresses anger with sounds other than crying 	 Reduplicate babble with consonants Listens then vocalizes when adult stops Smiles/vocalizes to mirror 	 Increasing variety of syllables 	 Says "Mama" (nonspecific) Nonreduplicate babble Imitates sounds 	 Says "Mama" (nonspecific) Nonreduplicate babble Imitates sounds 	Says "Dada" (specific)Waves "bye-bye"	Says first wordVocalizes to songs	 Points in order to get desired object (protoimperative pointing) Uses several gestures with vocalizing (eg, waving, reaching, etc)

Approximate chronologic age

Developmental milestones: 12 through 24 months

	Approximate chronologic age								
	12 months	13 months	14 months	15 months	16 months	18 months	20 months	22 months	24 months
Gross motor	 Stands well with arms high and legs splayed (posterior protection) Independent steps 	 Walks with arms high and out (high guard) 	 Stands without pulling up Falls by collapse Walks well 	 Stoops to pick up toy Creeps up stairs Runs stiff-legged Walks carrying toy Climbs on furniture 	 Stands on one foot with slight support Walks backwards Walks up stairs, one hand held 	 Creeps down stairs Runs well Seats self in small chair Throws ball (standing) 	 Squats in play Carries large object Goes up stairs, one hand held 	 Goes up stairs, holding rail, both feet on each step Kicks ball with demo Walks with one foot on walking board 	 Walks down stairs, holding rail, both feet on each step Kicks ball without demo Throws overhand
Fine motor/writing	 Scribbles after demo Fine pincer grasp of pellet Holds crayon Attempts tower of two cubes 	Attempts to release pellet in bottle	 Attempts to release pellet in bottle Imitates back-forth scribble Adds third cube to a two-cube tower Puts round peg in and out of hole 	 Builds three- to four-cube tower Places 10 cubes in cup Releases pellet into bottle 	 Puts several round pegs in board with urging Scribbles spontaneously 	 Makes four-cube tower Crudely imitates vertical stroke 	 Completes round peg board without urging Makes five- to six-cube tower Completes square peg board 	 Closes box with lid Imitates vertical stroke Imitates circular scribble 	 Makes a single-line "train" of cubes Imitates circle Imitates horizontal line
Self-help	 Cooperates in dressing Finger feeds part of meal Takes hat off 	Drinks from cup with some spilling	 Removes socks/shoes Chews well Puts spoon in mouth, typically turning it over 	 Uses spoon with some spilling Attempts to brush own hair Fusses to be changed 	 Picks up and drinks from cup Fetches and carries objects (same room) 	 Removes garment Gets onto adult chair unaided Moves about house without adult 	 Places only edibles in mouth Feeds self with spoon (entire meal) 	 Uses spoon well Drinks from cup well Unzips zippers Puts shoes on partway 	 Opens door using knob Sucks through straw Takes off clothes without buttons Pulls off pants
Cognitive/academic	 Rattles spoon in cup Lifts box lid to find toy 	 Dangles ring by string Reaches around clear barrier to obtain object Unwraps toy in cloth 	Dumps pellet out of bottle after demo	 Turns pages in book Places circle in single shape puzzle 	 Dumps pellet out without demo Finds toy observed to be hidden under layers of covers Places circle in form board 	■ Matches pairs of objects ■ Re-places circle in form board after it has been turned around (usually with trial and error) □ ▼ ○	 Returns to search for object hidden under cloth after not finding it in an adult's closed fists Places circle and square in form board 	■ Completes form board with three shapes	 Sorts objects Matches objects to pictures Shows use of familiar objects
Social/emotional	 Shows objects to parents to share interest Points in order to get desired object (proto-imperative pointing) 	 Shows desire to please caregiver Solitary play Functional play 	 Points at object to express interest (eg, to get parent to name it [proto-declarative pointing]) Purposeful exploration of toys through trial and error 	 Shows empathy (eg, someone else cries, child looks sad) Hugs adult in reciprocation Recognizes without a demo that a toy requires activation and hands it to an adult if can't operate 	 Kisses by touching lips to skin Periodically visually relocates caregiver Self-conscious: Embarrassed when aware of people observing 	 Passes M-CHAT Engages in pretend play with other people (eg, tea party, birthday party) Begins to show shame (when done wrong) and possessiveness 	 Begins to have thoughts about feelings Engages in tea party with stuffed animals Kisses with pucker 	 Watches other children intensely Begins to show defiant behavior 	 Parallel play Begins to mask emotions for social etiquette
Receptive language	 Follows one-step command with gesture Recognizes names of two objects, looks when named 	 Looks appropriately when asked "Where's the ball?," etc 	 Follows one-step command without gesture (eg, "give it") 	 Points to one body part Points to one object of three Gets object from another room upon demand 	 Understands simple commands (eg, "Bring to mommy") Points to one picture when named 	 Points to two of three objects when named Points to three objects Points to self Understands "mine" Points to familiar people when named 	 Points to three pictures Begins to understand her/him/me 	 Points to four to five pictures when named Points to five to six body parts Points to four pieces of clothing when named 	 Follows two-step command Understands "me"/"you" Points to 5 to 10 pictures
Expressive language	 Points in order to get desired object (proto-imperative pointing) Uses several gestures with vocalizing (eg, waving, reaching, etc) 	 Uses three words Immature jargoning (inflections without real words) 	 Names one object Points at object to express interest (eg, to get parent to name it [proto-declarative pointing]) 	 Uses three to five words Mature jargoning (with real words) 	■ Uses 5 to 10 words	 Uses 10 to 25 words Uses giant words (eg, "all gone," "stop that") Imitates environmental sounds (eg, animals) Names one picture on demand 	 Holophrases ("Mommy?" and points at keys, meaning "These are mommy's keys") Two-word combinations Answers requests with "no" 	 Uses 25 to 50 words Asks for more Adds one to two words per week 	 Uses two-word sentences (noun + verb) Telegraphic speech 50+ words in vocabulary 50% intelligibility Refers to self by name Names three pictures

Developmental milestones: 24 through 47 months

		Approximate chronologic age							
	24 months	2 years, 4 months	2 years, 6 months	2 years, 9 months	3 years to 3 years, 6 months				
Gross motor	 Walks down stairs, holding rail, both feet on each step Kicks ball without demo Throws overhand 	 Jumps from bottom step 1 foot leading Walks on toes after demo Walks backward 10 steps 	 Goes up stairs, with rail, alternating feet Jumps in place Stands with both feet on balance beam Walks with one foot on balance beam 	■ Walks swinging arms opposite of legs (synchronous gait)	 Balances on 1 foot: 3 seconds Goes up stairs, no rail, alternating feet Pedals tricycle Walks heel-toe Catches ball, arms stiff 				
Fine motor/writing	 Makes a single-line "train" of cubes Imitates circle Imitates horizontal line 	 Strings large beads (awkwardly) Unscrews jar lids Turns paper pages (often several at once) 	 Makes an 8-cube tower Makes a "train" of cubes and includes a stack 	 Makes a 9- to 10-cube tower Puts 6 square pegs in pegboard Imitates cross 	 Copies circle Cuts with scissors: Side to side (awkwardly) Imitates bridge of cubes Strings small beads well 				
Self-help	 Opens door using knob Sucks through straw Takes off clothes without buttons Pulls off pants 	 Holds self and/or verbalizes toilet needs Pulls pants up with assistance 	 Washes hands Puts things away Brushes teeth with assistance 	 Toilet trained Puts on coat unassisted 	 Eats independently Pours liquid Puts on shoes without laces Spreads with knife Unbuttons 				
Cognitive/academic	 Sorts objects Matches objects to pictures Shows use of familiar objects 	 Matches shapes Matches colors 	 Re-places circle in form board after it has been turned around (little or no trial and error) Points to small details in pictures 	 Points to self in photos Points to body parts according to function (eg, "what do you hear with?") 	 Draws a 2- to 3-part person Understands big/small, more/less Knows own gender Knows own age Matches letters/numerals 				
Social/emotional	 Parallel play Begins to mask emotions for social etiquette 	■ Reduction in separation anxiety	 Imitates adult activities (eg, sweeping, talking on the phone, pretending to hunt animals) 	 Begins to take turns Tries to help with household tasks 	 Starts to share with/without prompt Fears imaginary things Imaginative play Uses words to describe what someone else is thinking (eg, "Mom thought I was asleep") 				
Receptive language	 Follows 2-step commands Understands "me"/"you" Points to 5 to 10 pictures 	■ Understands "just one"	 Follows 2 prepositions (eg, "put block inon box") Points to objects by use (eg, "ride in," "put on feet," "write with") 	 Understands 3 prepositions Understands dirty/wet 	 Points to parts of picture (eg, nose of cow, door of car) Understands action words (eg, playing, washing, blowing) Names body parts when function is described Understands negatives Groups objects (eg, food, toys) Understands long/short 				
Expressive language	 Uses 2-word sentences (noun+verb) Telegraphic speech 50+ word vocabulary 50% intelligibility Refers to self by name Names 3 pictures 	 Repeats 2 digits Begins to use pronouns (eg, I, me, you) Names 10 to 15 pictures 	 Echolalia and jargoning gone Names objects by use Refers to self with correct pronoun Recites parts of well-known story/fills in words 	 Gives first and last name Rote counts to 3 Begins to use past tense Enjoys being read to (short books) 	 Uses 200+ words 3-word sentences Uses pronouns correctly 75% intelligibility Uses plurals Names body parts by use Asks to be read to 				

Developmental milestones: 4 years, 0 months through 7 to 8 years

	Approximate chronologic age						
	4 to 5 years	5 to 6 years	6 to 7 years	7 to 8 years			
Gross motor	■ Balances on 1 foot: 4 to 8 seconds	Walks down stairs, alternating feet, without using rail	■ Tandem walks	Rides bicycle independently			
	Hops on 1 foot: 2 to 3 times	 Balances on 1 foot: More than 8 seconds 	■ Skips	Bats ball placed on cone			
	 Standing broad jump: 1 to 2 feet 	Hops on 1 foot: 15 feet		 Does somersaults 			
	■ Gallops	■ Skips					
	■ Throws ball overhand: 10 feet	 Running broad jump: 2 to 3 feet 					
	 Catches bounced ball 	Walks backward heel-toe					
		Jumps backward					
Fine motor/writing	■ Copies square	Copies triangle	Builds stairs with cubes from memory	Writing rate increases			
	 Imitates making a complex gate with cubes 	Builds stairs with cubes from model	Draws diamond	Stays on line when writing			
	 Ties single knot 	Puts paper clip on paper	■ Copies flag	 Spaces between words 			
	 Cuts 5-inch circle 	 Can use clothespins to transfer small objects 	 Writes first and last name 	 Size of letters becomes uniform 			
	 Uses tongs to transfer 	Cuts with scissors	 Creates and writes short stories 	 Letter reversals disappear 			
	 Writes part of first name 	 Writes first name 	 Forms letters with down-going and counter-clockwise strokes 				
	 Works from left to right, top to bottom 						
Self-help	Goes to toilet alone	Spreads with knife	■ Ties shoes	Sticks with tasks (with television off) for up to 20 minutes			
	 Wipes after BM 	 Independent dressing 	■ Combs hair	 Pays attention to teacher when in a group 			
	 Washes face/hands 		Remembers to bring belongings	 Completes homework on own 			
	 Brushes teeth alone 			 Answers and delivers phone messages 			
	■ Buttons			 Completes household chores (with reminders) 			
	 Uses fork well 						
Cognitive/academic	■ Draws a 4- to 6-part person	■ Draws an 8- to 10-part person	■ Draws a 12- to 14-part person	Knows sounds of consonant digraphs (eg, "ch," "sh")			
	Can give amounts (usually less than 5) correctly	Gives amounts (less than 10)	 Number concepts to 20 	Knows sounds of vowel diphthongs (eg, "oo," "ou")			
	Completes simple analogies (eg, dad/boy:mother/, ice/cold:fire/,	Identifies coins	Simple addition/subtraction	Reads words with r-controlled vowels (eg, bird, burn)			
	ceiling/up:floor/)	 Names letters/numerals out of order 	 Understands seasons 	Starts "reading to learn" not just "learning to read"			
	 Points to 5 to 6 colors 	Rote counts to 10	 Sounds out regularly spelled words 	 Two-place addition/subtraction 			
	 Points to letters/numerals when named 	■ Names 10 colors	By end of first grade: Reads 250 words	Enjoys reading independently			
	 Rote counts to 4 	 Uses letter names as sounds to invent spelling (eg, "N-D-N" for "Indian") 		 Remembers spelling words 			
	 "Reads" several common signs/store names 	By end of kindergarten: Knows sounds of consonants and short vowels - Boads 25 words					
		■ Reads 25 words					
Social/emotional	 Deception: Interested in tricking others and concerned about being tricked 	 Has a group of friends 	 Has best friend of same sex 	 Avoids hurting others in play 			
	by others	 Apologizes for mistakes 	Plays board games	 Learns from mistakes 			
	Has a preferred friend	Responds verbally to good fortune of others	Distinguishes fantasy from reality	 Helps younger children 			
	Labels happiness, sadness, fear, and anger in self		 Wants to be like friends and please them 	Strong notions about what is fair			
	Group play			Takes turns in conversations			
				Delays gratification and waits to take turn			
				Interested in the opinions of peers			
Receptive language	 Follows 3-step commands 	Knows right and left on self	Asks what unfamiliar words mean	 Understands opposites and word analogies 			
	 Points to things that are the same versus different 	Points to different one in a series	Can tell which words do not belong in a group	 Knows right and left on others 			
	 Names things when actions are described (eg, it swims in water, you cut with 	Understands "er" endings (eg, batter, skater)		 Understands days and months 			
	it, it is something you read, it tells time)	 Understands adjectives (eg, bushy, long, thin, pointed) 					
		Enjoys rhyming words and alliterations					
		Produces words that rhyme					
		Points correctly to "side," "middle," and "corner"					
Expressive language	■ Repeats 4- to 6-syllable sentences	 Repeats 6- to 8-syllable sentences 	 Repeats 8- to 10-word sentences 	■ Masters "r" sound in speech			
	 Uses 300 to 1000 words 	Defines simple words	Describes events in an orderly way	Tells time			
	 Tells stories 	2000 word vocabulary	 Knows days of the week 	 Uses complex and compound sentences 			
	■ 100% intelligibility with few articulation errors	Knows telephone number	■ 10,000 word vocabulary	■ Talks about a range of topics			
	Uses "feeling" words	Responds to "why" questions					
	 Uses words that tell about time 	 Retells stories with clear beginning, middle, and end 					