o Doesn’t use 2 word sentences by age 2
o Doesn’t follow simple instructions by age 2
o Cannot push a wheeled toy by age 2
o By 15 months, doesn’t seem to know function of common household objects
o Experiences a dramatic loss of skills she once had

**24 Months-36 Months**

**Hand and Finger Skills**
- Builds tower of 6 blocks
- Holds pencil in writing position
- Screws, unscrews jar lids, nuts and bolts
- Turns rotating handles
- Makes vertical, horizontal and circular lines with pencil or crayon
- Turns book pages one at a time

**Developmental Health Watch**
Alert your child’s doctor or nurse if your child displays any of the following signs for this age:
- Frequent falling & difficulty with stairs
- Persistent drooling or unclear speech
- Can’t build a tower of more than 4 blocks
- Difficulty manipulating small objects
- Can’t copy a circle by age 3
- Unable to communicate in short phrases
- No involvement in “pretend” play
- Doesn’t understand simple instructions
- Little interest in other children
- Extreme difficulty separating from mother or primary caregiver
- Extreme difficulty separating from mother or primary caregiver
- Limited interest in toys
- Experiences a dramatic loss of skills she once had

**Social**
- Imitates adults and playmates
- Spontaneously shows affection for familiar playmates
- Can take turns in games
- Understands concept of “mine”, “his/hers”

**Emotional**
- Expresses wide range of emotions
- By 3, separates easily from parents
- Objects to major changes in routine

**Cognitive**
- Makes mechanical toys work
- Matches object in hand to picture in book
- Plays make-believe with toys & people
- Sorts objects by shape and color
- Completes puzzles with 3-4 pieces
- Understands concept of “two”

**Language**
- Follows 2 or 3 part command
- Recognizes & identifies almost all common objects & pictures
- Understands most sentences
- Understands “on”, “in”, “under”
- Uses 4-5 word sentences
- Can say name, age, sex
- Uses pronouns (I, you, me, we, they) and plurals (cars, dogs, cats)
- Strangers can understand most of his or her words

**Movement**
- Climbs well
- Walks up/down stairs alternating feet
- Kicks ball
- Runs easily
- Pedals tricycle
- Bends over easily without falling

**36 Months-5 years**

**Social and Emotional**
- Cooperate with other children
- Negotiate solutions to conflicts
- Often can’t distinguish reality/fantasy (4 yrs)
- Dress self, feed self
- Able to distinguish reality/fantasy (5 years)
- Likes to sing, dance, act (5 years)

**Cognitive**
- Follow 3 part directions
- Understand same/different
- Can count 10 or more objects (5 years)
- Knows about things used every day in the home (5 years)
- Begin to have a better sense of time

**Language**
- Speaks sentences 5-6 words
- Speaks clearly enough for strangers to understand

**Developmental Health Watch**
- Can’t jump in place
- Can’t ride a tricycle
- Exhibits extremely fearful or timid behavior (5 years)
- Exhibits extremely aggressive behavior
- Shows little interest in playing with other children
- Seems unhappy or sad much of the time
- Is easily distracted and unable to concentrate on any single activity for more than five minutes (by 5 years)
- Has trouble, eating, sleeping or using the toilet
- Avoids or seems aloof with other children or adults
- Experiences a dramatic loss of skills she once had

Babies develop at their own pace, so it is impossible to tell exactly when your child will learn a given skill. The developmental milestones listed below will give you a general idea of the changes you can expect, but don’t be alarmed if your own baby’s development takes a slightly different course.

**Birth - 4 Months**

**Social and Emotional**
- Begins to develop a social smile
- Enjoys playing with people and may cry when play stops
- Becomes more expressive and communicates more with face and body
- Imitates some movements and facial expressions

**Movement**
- Raises head & chest when lying on tummy
- Supports upper body with arms when on tummy
- Opens and shuts hands
- Brings hands to mouth
- Takes swipes at dangling objects w/ hands
- Grasps, shakes hand toys
- Kicks legs when lying on stomach or back

**Vision**
- Watches face intently
- Follows moving objects
- Recognizes familiar objects/people at a distance
- Starts using hands & eyes in coordination

**Hearing and Speech**
- Smiles at the sound of your voice
- Begins to babble, imitate some sounds
- Turns head toward direction of sound

**Developmental Health Watch**
Alert your child’s doctor or nurse if your child displays any of the following signs for this age:
- Does not seem to respond to loud noises
- Does not notice hands by 2 months
- Doesn’t follow moving objects with eyes by 2-3 months
- Doesn’t grasp and hold objects by 3 mo.
- Can’t support head well by 3 months
- Doesn’t babble by 3-4 months
- Doesn’t bring object to mouth by 4 months
- Doesn’t try to imitate sounds by 4 months
- Doesn’t push down w/ legs when held on firm surface

**4 Months-8 Months**

**Social and Emotional**
- Enjoys social play
- Interested in mirror images
- Responds to other people’s expression & appears joyful often

**Cognitive**
- Finds partially hidden object
- Explores with hands and mouth
- Struggles to get objects out of reach

**Language**
- Responds to own name
- Begins to respond to “no”
- Can tell emotions by tone of voice
- Responds to sounds by making sounds
- Uses voice to express joy and displeasure
- Babbles chains of sounds

**Movement**
- Rolls both ways (front/back, back/front)
- Sits with, then without, support with hands
- Supports whole weight on legs
- Reaches with one hand
- Transfers object from hand to hand
- Uses hand to rake objects

**Vision**
- Distance vision and color vision matures
- Ability to track moving objects improves

**Developmental Health Watch**
Alert your child’s doctor or nurse if your child displays any of the following signs for this age:
- Seems very stiff, with tight muscles
- Seems very floppy, like a rag doll
- Reaches with one hand only
- Refuses to cuddle
- Shows no affection for person caring for her
- One or both eyes consistently turns in or out
- Has difficulty getting objects to mouth
- Doesn’t roll over either direction by 5 mo.
- Doesn’t smile on own by 5 months
- Experiences a dramatic loss of skills she once had

**8 Months-12 Months**

**Social and Emotional**
- Shy or anxious with strangers
- Finger-feeds self
- Extends arm or leg to help when being dressed
- Prefers mother/regular caregiver over others
- Enjoys imitating people in her play
- Looks in the direction of your point

**Cognitive**
- Finds hidden objects easily
- Imitates gestures
- Explores objects in different ways
- Looks at correct picture when named

**Language**
- Says “dada” and “mama”
- Responds to simple verbal requests
- Tries to imitate words
- Uses exclamations such as “uh-oh”
- Uses simple gestures (shakes head no)

**Movement**
- Crawls forward on belly
- Assumes hands-and-knees position
- Creeps on hands and knees
- Pulls self up to stand
- Walks on tiptoe
- Climbs onto and down furniture by self
- Walks up/down stairs with support

**Hand and Finger Skills**
- Grasps, shakes hand toys
- Kicks a ball
- Climbs onto and down furniture by self
- Walks up/down stairs with support

**Developmental Health Watch**
Alert your child’s doctor or nurse if your child displays any of the following signs for this age:
- Doesn’t learn to use gestures such as waving
- Experiences a dramatic loss of skills she once had

**12 Months-24 Months**

**Social and Emotional**
- Shy or anxious with strangers
- Finger-feeds self
- Extends arm or leg to help when being dressed
- Prefers mother/regular caregiver over others
- Enjoys imitating people in her play
- Looks in the direction of your point

**Cognitive**
- Finds objects when hidden
- Begins to sort by shape and color
- Begins make-believe play

**Language**
- Points to object or picture when named for him
- Recognizes names of familiar people, objects, and body parts
- Says several single words (by 15-18 mo)
- Uses simple phrases (by 18-24 months)
- Uses 2-3 word sentences
- Follows simple instructions
- Repeats words overheard in conversation

**Movement**
- Walks alone
- Pulls toys behind while walking
- Carries large toy while walking
- Begins to run
- Stands on tiptoe
- Kicks a ball
- Climbs onto and down furniture by self
- Walks up/down stairs with support

**Hand and Finger Skills**
- Grasps, shakes hand toys
- Kicks a ball
- Climbs onto and down furniture by self
- Walks up/down stairs with support

**Developmental Health Watch**
Alert your child’s doctor or nurse if your child displays any of the following signs for this age:
- Can’t stand when supported
- Drags one side of body when crawling
- Says no single words
- Doesn’t learn to use gestures such as waving
- Experiences a dramatic loss of skills she once had

**Developmental Health Watch**
Alert your child’s doctor or nurse if your child displays any of the following signs for this age:
- Can’t walk by 18 months
- Fails to develop heel-toe walk after several months of walking or walks only on toes
- Doesn’t speak at least 15 words