

Typical Speech Development*

Typical Play Development*

Typical Physical Development*

Signs to Watch for in Physical Development*

BY 3 MONTHS

- Sucks and swallows well during feeding
- Quiets or smiles in response to sound or voice
- Coos or vocalizes other than crying
- Turns head toward direction of sound

While lying on their back...

- Visually tracks a moving toy from side to side
- Attempts to reach for a rattle held above their chest
- Keeps head in the middle to watch faces or toys



While lying on their tummy...

- Pushes up on arms
- Lifts and holds head up



- Difficulty lifting head
- Stiff legs with little or no movement



- Pushes back with head
- Keeps hands fisted and lacks arm movement

BY 6 MONTHS

- Begins to use consonant sounds in babbling, e.g. "dada"
- Uses babbling to get attention
- Begins to eat cereals and pureed foods

- Reaches for a nearby toy while on their tummy

While lying on their back...

- Transfers a toy from one hand to the other
- Reaches both hands to play with feet



- Uses hands to support self in sitting
- Rolls from back to tummy
- While standing with support, accepts entire weight with legs



- Rounded back
- Unable to lift head up
- Poor head control



- Difficult to bring arms forward to reach out
- Arches back and stiffens legs



- Arms held back
- Stiff legs

BY 9 MONTHS

- Increases variety of sounds and syllable combinations in babbling
- Looks at familiar objects and people when named
- Begins to eat junior and mashed table foods

- In a high chair, holds and drinks from a bottle
- Explores and examines an object using both hands
- Turns several pages of a chunky (board) book at once
- In simple play imitates others



- Sits and reaches for toys without falling
- Moves from tummy or back into sitting
- Creeps on hands and knees with alternate arm and leg movement



- Uses one hand predominately
- Rounded back
- Poor use of arms in sitting



- Difficulty crawling
- Uses only one side of body to move



- Inability to straighten back
- Cannot take weight on legs

BY 12 MONTHS

- Meaningfully uses "mama" or "dada"
- Responds to simple commands, e.g. "come here"
- Produces long strings of gibberish (jargonizing) in social communication
- Begins to use an open cup

- Finger feeds self
- Releases objects into a container with a large opening
- Uses thumb and pointer finger to pick up tiny objects



- Pulls to stand and cruises along furniture
- Stands alone and takes several independent steps



- Difficulty getting to stand because of stiff legs and pointed toes
- Only uses arms to pull up to standing



- Sits with weight to one side
- Strongly flexed or stiffly extended arms
- Needs to use hand to maintain sitting

BY 15 MONTHS

- Vocabulary consists of 5-10 words
- Imitates new less familiar words
- Understands 50 words
- Increases variety of coarsely chopped table foods

- Stacks two objects or blocks
- Helps with getting undressed
- Holds and drinks from a cup



- Walks independently and seldom falls
- Squats to pick up toy



- Unable to take steps independently
- Poor standing balance, falls frequently
- Walks on toes

* Remember to correct your child's age for prematurity.