### Approximate Ages at Which Most Children Show Abilities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Physical</th>
<th>Social</th>
<th>Emotional</th>
<th>Intellectual</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>By 3 months, may:</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Lift head when held at your shoulder.</td>
<td>Make cooing, gurgling sounds.</td>
<td>Communicate hunger, discomfort, or fear by facial expression, crying.</td>
<td>Turn head toward bright colors, lights, and voices.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lift head and chest when lying on his stomach.</td>
<td>Repeat sounds when adults imitate her.</td>
<td>Become quiet and interested at sound of familiar</td>
<td>Respond to shaking rattle or bell with body movements and interested facial expression.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Follow moving object or person with eyes.</td>
<td>Smile at familiar adult; smile when smiled at.</td>
<td>React with delight to peekaboo games.</td>
<td>Change some reflexes into purposeful movements such as sucking, rooting, grasping.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grasp rattle when it is given to him.</td>
<td>Welcome familiar adult by waving arms and legs, wigglng body.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wiggle and kick with arms and legs.</td>
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<td><strong>By 6 months, may:</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Hold head steady when sitting with help.</td>
<td>Babble; make language-like sounds.</td>
<td>Laugh, squeal with delight.</td>
<td>Imitate familiar actions.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Roll over.</td>
<td>Show preference for familiar adult.</td>
<td>Cry or scream loudly if annoyed or frustrated.</td>
<td>If accidentally makes a mobile or toy move in new way, tries to repeat the movement.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reach for and grasp objects.</td>
<td>Be cautious around strangers.</td>
<td>Smile at self in mirror.</td>
<td>Observe own hands and feet.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Play with toes.</td>
<td>Notice presence of other babies.</td>
<td>Show anger if prevented from having a desired toy.</td>
<td>Explore objects by banging them or putting them in the mouth.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Explore by mouthing and banging objects.</td>
<td>Hold up arms as sign to be held.</td>
<td>Be cautious or wary of a stranger.</td>
<td>Anticipate your feeding by opening mouth.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Move toys from one hand to the other.</td>
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<td><strong>By 12 months, may:</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Grasp small objects by using thumb and index or forefinger.</td>
<td>Babble sounds like words; repeat syllables like “ma-ma, da-da-da.”</td>
<td>Show affection to familiar adults.</td>
<td>Copy adult sounds and actions.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sit well without support.</td>
<td>Say first words.</td>
<td>Express clear emotions: pleasure, anger, excitement, joy, sadness, disappointment.</td>
<td>Respond to music with motion.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Crawl on hands and knees.</td>
<td>Recognize names of family members.</td>
<td>Show apprehension or fear about strangers.</td>
<td>Try to accomplish simple goals such as seeing and then crawling to a toy.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pull self in order to stand; take steps holding on to furniture.</td>
<td>Understand simple commands.</td>
<td>Show anxiety at separation from parents.</td>
<td>Look for an object that she watched fall out of sight.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Stand alone for brief time.</td>
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<td>Begin to understand that her action makes something happen, such as that pushing a ball makes it roll away.</td>
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<td>Walk while holding on with one hand.</td>
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<td><strong>By 18 months, may:</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Like to pull, push, and dump things.</td>
<td>Say eight to 10 understandable words.</td>
<td>Protest when frustrated.</td>
<td>Identify objects in picture books.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Turn pages in a stiff cardboard book.</td>
<td>Ask for something or someone by pointing or using one word.</td>
<td>Like being center of attention and making others laugh.</td>
<td>Laugh at something silly.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Scribble with crayons.</td>
<td>Act out familiar activity, such as taking a bath or eating food.</td>
<td>Recognize self in mirror or in pictures.</td>
<td>Follow simple directions.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Walk without help.</td>
<td>Run slowly in a lurching fashion.</td>
<td>Show growing sense of ownership of possessions.</td>
<td>Solve problems by trial and error using real objects.</td>
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<td>Stack two or three blocks.</td>
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<td>Use a stick as a tool to obtain a toy.</td>
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<td><strong>By 24 months, may:</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Feed self with spoon but spill some food.</td>
<td>Know several hundred words and use sentences of two to three words.</td>
<td>Show strong sense of ownership.</td>
<td>Think of a solution to a problem before acting.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Help with own dressing.</td>
<td>Use words to explain feelings.</td>
<td>Show strong desire to do tasks by herself.</td>
<td>Find a hidden object by searching a number of places, even if he did not see it being hidden.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Build tower of three to five blocks.</td>
<td>Listen to stories and short rhymes.</td>
<td>Show awareness of approval or disapproval of own actions.</td>
<td>Form a plan before pretend play.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Toys or roll a large ball.</td>
<td>Be able to take turns with adult help.</td>
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<td>Recognize self in mirror.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bend over without falling to pick up a toy.</td>
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<td>Recognize body parts.</td>
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<td><strong>By 36 months, may:</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Hold crayon in correct position.</td>
<td>Use sentences of three to five words.</td>
<td>Talk about feelings.</td>
<td>Recognize and label sounds in the environment, such as motor of garbage truck.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Draw repeated lines and shapes.</td>
<td>Ask short questions.</td>
<td>Show shame when caught in a wrongdoing.</td>
<td>Sort and categorize objects and ideas, such as knowing what is food and what is not.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wash hands alone.</td>
<td>Imitate housework; help with simple tasks.</td>
<td>Want to please respected adult.</td>
<td>Substitute one thing for another in play.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dress self with help.</td>
<td>Ask to use toilet almost every time.</td>
<td>Laugh at silly ideas like “milking a dog.”</td>
<td>Count two to three objects.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Use toilet with help.</td>
<td>Know name, gender.</td>
<td>Try to make others laugh.</td>
<td>Recognize differences between boys and girls.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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If you think your baby or toddler is developing very differently from what is shown on the chart, contact a health care professional. You may also want to talk with a child development specialist in Kentucky’s First Steps Program by calling 1-800-442-0087.

This chart is a supplement to Know How Your Child Develops (FC57-181) in the Keys to Great Parenting series produced by the Cooperative Extension Service, University of Kentucky College of Agriculture, the Kentucky Extension Homemakers Association, and the Cooperative Extension Program, Kentucky State University.
Keys to Great Parenting

Fun and Learning with Your Baby or Toddler

Know How Your Child Develops

Developmental Growth Chart