
Red Flags in Development

As a parent, you know your baby best. You notice things such as how and when your baby smiles, sits up, learns new words, walks, or holds a cup. What you are seeing is how your child is growing through different stages of development.

Every baby grows and develops at his or her own pace. It is important to talk with your child's healthcare provider at every visit about the milestones your baby has reached and what to expect next. It is also important to tell your baby's healthcare provider if you notice any of these signs of possible developmental delay. Please make sure to discuss your concerns if:

By age 2 months, your baby:

- Doesn't respond to loud sounds
- Doesn't watch things as they move
- Doesn't smile at people
- Doesn't bring hands to mouth
- Can't hold head up when pushing up, when on tummy

By age 4 months, your baby:

- Doesn't watch things as they move
- Doesn't smile at people
- Can't hold head steady
- Doesn't coo or make sounds
- Doesn't bring things to mouth
- Doesn't push down with legs when feet are placed on a hard surface
- Has trouble moving one or both eyes in all directions

By age 6 months, your baby:

- Doesn't try to get things that are in reach
- Doesn't transfer toys from one hand to the other

- Shows no affection for caregivers
- Doesn't respond to sounds around him or her
- Has difficulty getting things to mouth
- Seems very floppy
- Doesn't make vowel sounds (such as "ah," "eh," "oh")
- Doesn't roll over in either direction
- Doesn't laugh or make squealing sounds
- Seems very stiff, with tight muscles

By age 9 months, your baby:

- Doesn't bear weight on legs with support
- Doesn't sit with help
- Doesn't babble ("mama," "baba," "dada")
- Doesn't play any games involving back-and-forth play
- Doesn't respond to own name
- Doesn't seem to recognize familiar people
- Doesn't look where you point

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As a parent, you know your toddler best. You notice things such as how and when your toddler walks, plays with toys, talks, or feeds himself/herself using a spoon or fork. What you are seeing is how your toddler is growing through different stages of development.

Every child grows and develops at his or her own pace. It is important to talk with your toddler's healthcare provider at every visit about the milestones your toddler has reached and what to expect next. It is also important to tell your toddler's healthcare provider if you notice any of these signs of possible developmental delay. Please make sure to discuss your concerns if:

By age 12 months, your child:

- Doesn't crawl
- Can't stand when supported
- Doesn't search for things that he or she sees you hide
- Doesn't point to things
- Doesn't learn gestures like waving or shaking head
- Doesn't say simple words like "mama" or "dada"
- Has lost skills he or she once had (some backsliding is normal)
- Doesn't point to show things to others
- Can't walk
- Doesn't know what familiar things are used for
- Doesn't copy others' actions or words
- Doesn't gain new words
- Doesn't have at least six words
- Doesn't notice when a caregiver leaves or returns
- Has lost skills he or she once had (some backsliding is normal)

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As a parent, you know your toddler best. You notice things such as how and when your toddler learns new skills, eats new foods and plays with others. What you are seeing is how your toddler is growing through different stages of development.

Every toddler grows and develops at his or her own pace. It is important to talk with your toddler's healthcare provider at every visit about the milestones your toddler has reached and what to expect next. It is also important to tell your child's healthcare provider if you notice any of these signs of possible developmental delay. Please make sure to discuss your concerns if:

By age 18 months, your child:

- o Doesn't point to show things to others
- o Can't walk
- o Doesn't know what familiar things are used for
- o Doesn't copy others' actions or words
- o Doesn't gain new words
- o Doesn't have at least six words
- o Doesn't notice when a caregiver leaves or returns
- o Loses skills he or she once had

By age 2, if your child:

- o Doesn't know what to do with common things, such as a brush, phone, fork or spoon
- o Doesn't copy actions and words
- o Doesn't follow simple instructions
- o Doesn't use two-word phrases (for example "drink milk")
- o Doesn't walk steadily
- o Loses skills he or she once had

By age 3, if your child:

- o Falls down a lot or has trouble with stairs
- o Drools or has very unclear speech
- o Can't work simple toys such as peg boards, simple puzzles, turning a handle
- o Doesn't understand simple instructions
- o Doesn't speak in sentences
- o Doesn't make eye contact when getting your attention (may vary by culture)
- o Doesn't play pretend or make-believe
- o Doesn't want to play with other children or with toys
- o Loses skills he or she once had

The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends that all children be screened for general development at their 18 and 24-month check-ups.