

your child: from birth to 6 months

From Newborn to Baby: The Most Important Developmental Achievements



SOCIAL

Typically Can:

- Respond to own mirror image
- Extend toy to another person
- Socially smile at another person
- Try to imitate facial expressions and gestures

Emerging Skills:

- Disturbed by strangers
- Will recognize the word "No"
- Cry differently, for pain and hunger
- Enjoy interactive games like peek-a-boo

LANGUAGE

Typically Can:

- Cry
- Coo, chuckle, gurgle when happy
- Begin to make vowel and consonant sounds
- Makes sounds back when you talk
- Startle to loud noises

Emerging Skills:

- Begin to babble
- Respond to some words (e.g. "no no")
- Imitate two or three familiar gestures such as pat-a-cake
- Turn in response to name

GROSS MOTOR

Typically Can:

- Sit with slight support
- Lift head and pull to sitting position when hand held
- Turn head freely
- Sit in chair and bounce

Emerging Skills:

- Take weight on feet when held in standing position
- Take early stepping movements
- Get into creeping or crawling position
- Appear to be dancing when straightens one leg at a time in upright position

COGNITIVE

Typically Can:

- Enjoy examining and banging objects
- Remain alert 2 hours at a time
- Create changes in objects by looking at them upside down or further away

Emerging Skills:

- Search for a toy that is covered up
- Remember that an object is hidden and search for it
- Look for dropped object
- Begin to enjoy clowning around
- Use several senses at once

EMOTIONAL

Typically Can:

- Begin to quiet down on his/her own after getting upset
- Express many emotions: sadness, anger, happiness, and excitement
- Check out parent and touch face as if memorizing it
- Show mood changes that tend to be rapid

Emerging Skills:

- Has a special toy that always goes to bed with him/her
- Sleeps for longer periods at night

FINE MOTOR

Typically Can:

- Move toy from hand to mouth
- Hold toys placed in both hands
- Bang spoon placed in hand
- Grasp table
- Reach and grasp at objects with whole hand

Emerging Skills:

- Transfer toy from one hand to another
- Release toy by dropping
- Throw toy purposefully
- Hold two blocks and look for a third
- Rotate wrist to turn and manipulate object

Adapted from INVEST in KIDS
Language Portion by North Words

For More Information
Contact Your Local Northwestern Health Unit Office
or Healthy Babies Health Children
Toll Free at 1-800-465-4377