

# Symptoms & Signs For Each Developmental Age

*(Taken from Richard S. Kavner's Your Child's Vision: A Parent's Guide to Seeing, Growing, Developing)*

## Symptoms to watch for at the end of the third month

1. Any mark on the face from delivery instruments
2. Difficulty opening each eyelid fully
3. Mucus in either eye that makes the lids stick together
4. Eyes that do not look clear and bright
5. If the infant has difficulty following you in all directions with his eyes
6. Pupils that do not seem to respond to light
7. Failure of your baby to respond to a sound by turning his eyes toward the sound
8. One eye that does not seem to look at you and that appears to look constantly in one direction.
9. Failure to recognize food when it is brought
10. Failure to try to maintain eye contact

## Developmental signs for between ages four and eight months

1. Do both your baby's eyes work together all the time? Or is there any appears of strabismus?
2. Does your baby pick up eye contact and show interest in the environment at a distance of two to three feet?
3. Does your baby spend time inspecting the objects in his environment including their position, texture, and size?
4. Does he show curiosity about things at a two to three foot distance?
5. Is your baby beginning to recognize objects that he has seen and has played with before? Can he recognize them if they are partially covered (when you ask him to find it)?
6. Can your baby visually follow people and events across his entire visual field?
7. Do his faces and eyes light up when he recognizes an object?

## Developmental signs for between ages nine and eighteen months

1. Is your baby interested in exploring her environment?
2. Is she able to move outside of eyesight of you while exploring?
3. Is she interested in exploring objects including appearing to note their size and shape? Does she explore depths such as the inside of containers and boxes?
4. Does she visually judge the size of her body so that she doesn't continually bump her head as she crawls under things or get frustrated by not fitting into too small a space?
5. Do her eyes guide her hands as she places marks on paper?
6. Can she pick up an object she wants and place it where she wants, like one block on another or raisins in a cup?
7. Does she recognize what objects are used for, like containers that can be used to scoop up sand or water?
8. Do people and things 2-4 feet away from her attract and hold her attention?
9. Has she begun to play alongside other children, watching and sometimes imitating their play?

## Developmental signs for between ages eighteen months and three years

1. Is your baby able to walk around familiar territory without having to constantly watch what she is doing?
2. Is he interested and skillful with playing with puzzles, pieces, and toys such as Legos?
3. Is she beginning to use and understand spatial words like "under" "over" "there"?
4. Can he find a hidden object by following a simple set of spatial directions?
5. Does she demonstrate that she is beginning to think over her actions in advance?
6. Does he demonstrate a growing understanding of words that define attributes ( soft, smooth, hard,etc)?

7. Is she beginning to play cooperatively with other children?
8. Is his play imaginative?
9. Does he show an interest in people and things out to 8 feet?

### **Developmental signs for between ages three and four years**

1. Is your child beginning to alternate his feet when walking down the stairs?
2. Is your child able to play with her toys without having to actively look at her hands?
3. Is your child able to hold eye contact at a 10 to 16 foot distance?
4. Does your child's language now include expressions of time such as "next time"?
5. Does your child show an awareness of landmarks that he sees on trips to familiar places?
6. Does your child show the ability to visualize results of her actions before she attempts them?
7. Does your child get involved with small group activities as well as in isolated play?
8. Is your child aware of the facial expressions and body language that reflect a person's mood?

### **Developmental signs for between ages four and five years**

1. Your child should be able to carry a container of contents while walking without spilling.
2. Your child should be able to walk up steps alternating feet (though he may need a little help at the beginning).
3. She should now be able to draw a recognizable circle, a cross, and begin to draw at least three sides of a square.
4. Your child should now be able to hold eye contact out to 16 feet and by age five, 20 feet.
5. He should be able to accurately judge where things are in space. He can demonstrate this by building a tower of 10 blocks or tossing a ball (underhand) to you anywhere 3 feet to 12 feet.
6. She should be able to identify objects by their color, size, and position, relative to another object
7. He should be able to tell what street he lives on and be able to describe something about his house.
8. She should be able to play cooperatively with a group of friends and be able to follow the rules of their game.
9. He should be able to understand how others feel in a variety of everyday situations.
10. She should be able to hold eye contact at 20 feet and follow instructions given to him at a distance.

## Is a developmental exam needed?

*Each item is approximately 25% below what is normally expected.*

*If your child demonstrates two or more of these items, then a developmental exam is needed.*

### Three Months

- Still lies on his back in a TNR posture (head facing one side, arm extended on that side as if in a fencing position).
- Visually follows a moving target downward but not upward
- Unable to hold her head erect, even for a moment
- Does not follow a moving object past midline
- Regards an object moved in front of her eyes only momentarily
- Does not hold a rattle
- Little/no interest in his own hand
- Hands may still be fisted

### Eight Months

- Unable to hold truck erect
- Has not begun to move using his arms, only attempts supporting his weight in a crawling position
- There is not unilateral reaching (all reaching is bilateral)
- Will not sustain his attention while you scribble on a paper. He's more attentive to his own actions
- Convergence ability is not sustained
- One eye may still cross at times
- Does not explore objects that she holds in her hand
- Will reach and grasp large objects, but small items only elicit "raking" attempts

### Eighteen Months

- Unable to walk without holding an adult's hand or furniture
- Unable to go up stairs, but is able to stoop and then recover balance
- Reaching and manipulating things requires two hands in a task; not able to coordinate activity unilaterally
- Not able to hold more than one object at the same time
- Does not watch where he is going to go.
- Does not visually guide her actions
- Maintains visual attention on activities occurring 3-5 feet from him, not beyond
- Still moves his head and body as he visually tracks the movement of an object
- Unable to place one cube on top of another. The "release" function has only developed to the point that she can release the block in the vicinity of another, not place on top of it

Cannot imitate a vertical crayon stroke, only brushes the crayon on the paper

Does not any shapes correctly on a three-piece formboard

Uses no spatial words

Unable to consistently put cubes in a cup

Unable to respond to the question “where do you want to go?”

### Two Years

Spatial vocabulary is confined to *up* and *down*

Answers the question “where do you go with your mother?” only by looking or pointing and not by description

Unable to fit two halves of a sphere together to make a ball

### Three Years

Unable to stand on one foot

Unable to alternate feet going up the stairs, but is able to walk up and down the stairs one step at a time

Unable to jump from the bottom step, but is able to kick a large ball

Unable to ride a tricycle

Is able to attend to a moving visual object without moving his body, but with frequent head movement

When she shifts attention from one object to another, tends to support this with head movements

Unable to simultaneously walk and observe something happening near her; has to stop walking and look

The movement of spinning things still distract him

Unable to place at least four blocks on a ten-piece formboard, but is able to complete all three pieces of a three-piece formboard

Does not copy a circle; only makes horizontal strokes

Can build a tower of 5-6 blocks but is unable to build a train with a chimney

Unable to fold/crease paper

Spatial vocabulary does not include words such as *over*, *from*, *by*, *on top of* but does include *there*, *where*, *in*, *out*, *turn around*

Unable to place an object as directed under or next to a chair, but can place it on the chair

When asked where mother is, can only answer “In the house” not specify place (e.g. kitchen)

### Four Years

Unable to hop on one foot but can balance on one foot for 5 seconds

Unable to alternate feet while walking downstairs but can alternate going up stairs

Unable to carry a cup of water without spilling

<input type="checkbox"/> Unable to throw a ball overhead
<input type="checkbox"/> Can only follow a moving object in towards his face up to 4-5 inches; then shifts his attention away or moves head
<input type="checkbox"/> As she follows a moving object, large saccades are noted instead of smooth pursuits. Minimal head movement is noted
<input type="checkbox"/> Can shift attention from one object to another without moving head, but tends to lose track of the object momentarily
<input type="checkbox"/> When you ask her to follow a moving target in your hand, she tends to shift attention to your hand
<input type="checkbox"/> Still watches carefully what he does with his hands
<input type="checkbox"/> Can correctly place only 4 blocks on a 10-piece formboard
<input type="checkbox"/> Can only copy a circle and approximate a cross
<input type="checkbox"/> Is unable to build a bridge with cubes; can build a train with a chimney
<input type="checkbox"/> Unable to follow directions when told to place a toy <i>in, on, behind, in front, or beside</i>
<input type="checkbox"/> Not able to distinguish the front/back of clothing
<input type="checkbox"/> Unable to fit three shapes together to make a design
<input type="checkbox"/> Unable to copy a sequence of four objects (beads, blocks, etc)

### Five Years

<input type="checkbox"/> Unable to alternate feet when skipping, although he can hop on one foot
<input type="checkbox"/> Unable to walk backward heel-toe, but can walk forwards
<input type="checkbox"/> Unable to walk on a 10 foot long 2 1/2-inch board without stepping off but can alternate walking down stairs
<input type="checkbox"/> Unable to kick a soccer ball while running, but is able to hop on one foot and throw overhead
<input type="checkbox"/> Can only follow an object moving in towards her face up to 3 inches, then looks away
<input type="checkbox"/> Can follow a moving target without moving his head, but his eyes still move in small saccades
<input type="checkbox"/> Can shift attention from one object to another, but tends to overshoot/undershoot the target
<input type="checkbox"/> Builds a bridge with blocks
<input type="checkbox"/> Can copy a cross or circle; makes a square look like a capital D
<input type="checkbox"/> Unable to copy a triangle
<input type="checkbox"/> Can place only eight pieces on a ten-piece formboard
<input type="checkbox"/> Unable to put two triangles together to make a rectangle
<input type="checkbox"/> Does not know his right or left side
<input type="checkbox"/> Unable to put toys away in an orderly fashion
<input type="checkbox"/> Unable to place a mark correctly in a drawing when told to place it under, above, behind, or in front of a printed shape. Only gets one placement correct