

Functional Development

Birth to 3 months

3 to 6 months

Social Relationships

- When I'm upset and you pick me up and talk to me, I calm down and relax into your arms
- I seem to notice different sounds, and to focus my vision on lots of different sights
- I smile and wiggle when you touch me and I want you to walk with me or rock me
- I can turn my head when I see or hear you.
- I can focus on familiar people, my eyes widen, and I start to smile because I know their voice and smell

- When you smile at me, I smile back
- I seem to enjoy looking at my parent's face and will look for a long time
- When you talk to me, I can coo back at you and seem to want you to keep talking to me
- I can smile when I see myself in the mirror
- I can look and smile at you to get your attention
- I have facial expressions that tell you I am happy, sad, upset, hurt, etc.

Skills and Knowledge

- I can use sounds including different kinds of crying, facial expressions and body movements to tell you if I'm hungry, sleepy, happy or uncomfortable
- I jump or jerk when I hear loud noises
- When someone is talking I can turn my head to find them
- I can watch you and can look at toys
- I can look at the mobile moving in my crib and can watch my dog/cat/sibling move around the room
- I can look at you and then at the dog when he walks by us then look back to you
- I can look at my hands as I hold them up in front of me

- I can make sounds back to you when you talk playfully to me
- I can make sounds that are not crying that are loud and soft, high and low, etc.
- I can squeal and laugh with you
- I can turn my head to see the people I love and things that interest me.
- I can watch and reach for my toys on the side of my crib or that you hold out to me
- I like to put my toys in my mouth and bang them
- When you do something that I like, I may smile and move my arms and legs to let you know I want to keep playing
- I can play peek-a-boo by taking a wash cloth off my face

Action to Meet Needs

- I no longer cry or fuss during my bath and I kick my legs to splash the water
- I cry or frown when you pull a shirt or onesie over my head
- When you put a finger or nipple in my mouth, I automatically begin sucking on it
- When you softly brush a finger against my cheek, I can turn my head towards it
- My bedtime is becoming a little more predictable and I can sleep at least 4 hours at night
- When you put your finger or a small rattle in my palm, I automatically hold on to it
- I can kick each leg or move each arm separately from the other
- During tummy time, I can pick my head up off the floor and turn it to look in different directions

- When you put cereal or baby food in my mouth, I can push it out with my tongue
- I get excited when I see my bottle or Mom's breast & coo to you
- I can hold or help hold my own bottle during feeding time
- I can sleep most of the night, at least 5-6 hours without waking up for a feeding, but I still need at least a couple of naps each day
- When I am on my back, I sometimes clasp my hands together
- I can hold onto small toys without any help
- I use my facial expressions to let you know what I like or dislike
- When you gently pull my arms to help me sit up, I can keep my head and neck straight
- When you hold me up by my arms or chest, I can use my legs and feet to stand up in your lap
- I can roll to try to get closer to you or to an interesting toy

Functional Development

6 to 9 months

9 to 12 months

Social Relationships

- I can reach for you when I want to be held
- I can respond when children are around me by watching them, smiling, making sounds and reaching out for them
- When someone smiles or frowns at me I will smile or frown back
- I know it is me in the mirror—I smile, squeal and pat the mirror when I see myself
- My body may seem tense and I may look worried when strangers hold me

- I want to be with my parents over anyone else but I like to smile and flirt with others
- I like to give hugs and pat you
- When you laugh at what I do I can do it again to get you to laugh more
- I can bring things to you or point to things I see so you can enjoy them with me
- I can play Peek-a-Boo and Pat-a-Cake with you
- I have favorite people and toys and will refuse to play with others sometimes
- I may cry when you leave because I know I am going to miss you

Skills and Knowledge

- I can make sounds to “talk” to others
- I can make noises that sound-like p/ b/ m/ n/ t/ d/ z
- I know what it means when you wave good bye or smile & say hi
- I shake my head “no-no” when I don’t want to eat icky green peas
- I can look for the dog when you call him or my bottle when you ask me if I want it
- I like to put my toys in my mouth, shake and bang them
- I can hold a toy in one hand and pick up another one with my other hand
- I can sit on my own, pick up toys and may begin scooting or crawling to get to toys I want
- I can figure out how things work by copying what I see others do

- I can repeat strings of sounds that seem to sound more like talking
- I can make sounds and gestures to get you to pick me up or get me something I want
- I am starting to understand what you say to me. I can follow simple directions—“give it to me”, “wave bye-bye”
- When you say “no-no” to me I will stop and look at you
- I drop toys or food from my high chair and watch it fall to the floor
- When we are looking at books and you say the name of something, I can look at it on the page
- I can get you to start my toy or will push it myself
- I have found my own way of crawling—on my hands or knees, on my stomach, or scooting on my bottom to get to toys
- I can walk holding on to furniture or your hand

Action to Meet Needs

- I can eat some of the same foods my parents eat
- I can make my opinion known about what I want or don’t want by vocalizing, frowning or turning my head
- I try to feed myself by holding finger foods in my fist
- I can grab handles on a cup to bring it to my mouth by myself
- My bedtime is predictable and I can almost always sleep through the night, but I still need a nap or two during the day
- I can pick up toys or food items off a table or the floor using all my fingers and my palm
- I can move a toy from one hand to the other
- I can roll in any direction to get comfortable or to reach something I want
- I can sit without any help
- When I am on my tummy, I can crawl to reach things I want
- When you help me stand, I have fun bouncing

- I can pick up small food items like Cheerios between my thumb and index finger and put them in my mouth without your help
- I can drink from an open cup with help, but I might spill
- I take off my own socks
- When you dress me, I can help by pushing my head, legs and arms through my clothes
- I fuss and cry when my diaper is wet or dirty
- I use my index finger to poke to explore things like your face or foods
- I am beginning to vocalize & point at things I am interested in
- I can stand up from the floor by pulling up on the couch
- I can take steps while holding on to furniture to get what I want
- I am beginning to take steps while I hold your hands
- I can go from standing to sitting without falling backwards
- I can make sounds and gestures to get you to pick me up or get me something I want

Functional Development

12 to 18 months

18 to 24 months

Social Relationships

- I try to do things by myself, I try to run ahead of you and I don't want to hold your hand
- I want to do things on my own but often come to you or look at you for reassurance, comfort or help
- I bring toys to you or you to them because I want you to play with me
- I can play on my own for a short time
- I say "no" or push things away to show you that I want to do things on my own or don't want to do what you suggested
- I may try to comfort someone who is sad
- My feelings may be hard for me to cope with and I may start to have tantrums. I need you to help me calm down

- When I can't do what I want to do I get mad
- I try to get you and others to do what I want to do and do it my way
- I watch other children and can play beside them for a short time
- I want to help you do things around the house
- I understand "no" but I still can't control my feelings and actions
- I will sometimes say "No" when I don't want to do what you suggested
- I want to do things by myself without your help
- I like to pretend to feed my dolls or that my pretzels are swords or guns

Skills and Knowledge

- I can call "Mama or Dada" to get your attention
- I am starting to say some words. Sometimes only you and I understand what they mean
- Sometimes my talking is a combination of sounds and words and can sound like long sentences
- I want to know and can ask "what's that?"
- I can answer you when you ask who is that or what is that?
- I can follow directions like come here, sit down or put it on
- If you ask me to, I can point to a body part or show you a familiar toy or possession
- I can put water or sand in a bucket and dump it out
- I can copy actions I've seen others do, like rolling the car, talking on the phone, stirring a pot
- I can pull my car by the string or push my stool to the counter to get a snack
- I can throw a ball and turn pages in my books

- I can use 50 to 100 words and can make sentences—"Mama eat"
- I try to say everything I hear others say
- I can use my words to tell you what things are
- I understand more words than I can use
- I can follow silly directions like get the bowl and put it on your head
- I can look at books and point to pictures, name things I see and turn the pages
- I can point to at least 6 of my body parts when you ask me where they are
- I can put all my trains in one bin, and all my cars in another
- I can blow on my food when you tell me it is hot

Action to Meet Needs

- I can chew and swallow many of the same foods my parents eat
- I can eat and drink without help, but I might make a big mess
- I can drink milk or juice from a cup with a straw
- I can go get a favorite toy or object when you request it
- I can unzip your purse or your jacket
- I can get up on the couch or one of your chairs without help
- I can put little objects into a pocket or small openings in my toys
- I can hold a crayon in my fist and make a mark with it
- I can play with toys in a squat position
- I can kick a ball when it is sitting still on the ground
- I can push a large object or pull a toy on a string while I walk
- At 12 months, I may walk on my own or by holding your hand
- At 18 months I can walk on my own and take a few steps backwards
- I can let you know what I want and need using single words, gestures and sounds

- I am no longer exploring things with my mouth—I only put food in it
- I can use my words to ask for things I want and need
- I try to put on my shoes, but I may still need help
- I know when I need to use the bathroom, but I may not be able to tell you in time or I might not tell you at all, but you know I am going in my diaper because I move to a corner or another private place
- I can wash my own hands and face, but I may need some help
- I can make different kinds of marks with a crayon, holding it with just my fingers, not my whole hand
- I can stack 4 or 5 blocks, cans, or toys with flat bottoms
- When I throw a ball, it usually gets close to where I want it to go
- I can run without falling most of the time & can climb all over
- I can walk upstairs holding your hand or a rail, but I might still go downstairs crawling backwards or scooting on my bottom

Functional Development

24 to 30 months

30 to 36 months

Social Relationships

- I am proud when I do something and I want you to praise me
- My favorite word is "MINE" and I don't let others take my toys from me
- I will pat you on the back or rub your shoulder if I think you are upset
- I like for things to be the same every day and for you to do things in ways that are familiar to me (reading my favorite book, using my favorite cup, etc.)
- I can usually calm down from being mad in a reasonable time
- I am unsure of strangers and rely on you to help me know if they are safe
- I don't mind when you leave me at daycare or grandma's or with someone else that I know
- I like to watch other children and will copy what they do
- I may have 1 or 2 good friends

- I can tell you how old I am and if I am a boy or a girl
- I prefer to play beside my friends but with the same toys
- I can play group games like ring-around-the-rosy
- I can look at photos and point to people I know or say their names including myself
- I want you to watch me do things and praise me for it
- I will ask you to hold me or will come and get up in your lap so you can cuddle with me.
- I can tell you how I feel—"Mama, I mad at you!"
- I know that people are not all the same and can tell you how they are different—"Her hair is brown" or "He is big"
- I like to play with other children and have one or two close friends

Skills and Knowledge

- I can use 200 words and can make longer sentences—"Mama play truck?"
- Some of my words may not have all the right sounds
- I can ask where is it and what is it?
- I can use words that mean more than one, like "cookies" or "cars"
- I understand more words than I can use and I seem to understand most of what familiar people say to me
- I can point to pictures of a boy running, climbing & walking when you ask
- I can give you one piece or bite of my snacks if you ask
- I can "act out" a pretend activity like putting gas in the car and driving it
- When we are reading my books, I can find things in my room that are in the book
- I can sing the "Itsy Bitsy Spider" and do all the hand motions
- I can put my big Legos in one tub and my little ones in another
- I can make a building of just red or just blue Legos

- I can have a conversation with you and you understand most of what I say now
- I can talk about other people by using words like you, he, she, etc.
- I can talk about things that happened in the past, and may say funny things like "I runned back to you"
- I can tell you what my toothbrush and comb are used for
- I ask questions
- I can tell you my first and last name
- I like story time at the library and can listen to the entire story
- I can draw pictures and tell you about them
- If you ask me to give you two of my crackers, I can count them out in your hand
- When you ask me where my body parts are I can find them on my body, on your body and in pictures
- I like to build things with my blocks like trains and move them along my pretend tracks
- I can act out my own stories and pretend with toys

Action to Meet Needs

- I can take off a jacket or elastic waist pants
- I don't like it when my diaper is wet or dirty and I can use my words to tell you
- I can pull down my pants and sit on the potty for 1-2 minutes
- I can unbutton big buttons on a coat
- I can put on my socks, jackets and T-shirts, but they may be backwards or inside out
- I can eat all my food by myself, may still make a mess with certain foods (spaghetti) and I might refuse if you try to help me
- I can help you put things away when you ask me
- I can draw circles and lines on a piece of paper after you show me how to do it
- I hold my pencil between my thumb and index finger
- I can use scissors to make little cuts in paper
- I can take the top off of a bottle if it is not too tight
- When you throw a large ball to me, I can catch it
- I can walk upstairs, putting only one foot on each step
- I can jump up and down, using both feet at the same time

- I can put on all my clothes and will ask for help with buttons, ties and zippers
- I can pour water or juice from a pitcher or carton into my cup
- I can use a fork without making a big mess
- I can make it to the potty in time *most* of the time, but I still need a Pull-up at night
- I can tell you what I want or need—"Mama, I want a snack"
- I can put little beads or macaroni on a string to make a necklace
- When you draw a circle or a cross, I can copy you
- I can stack 8 or 10 blocks, cans, or toys without them falling
- I can cut across a piece of paper with scissors
- I can stand on one foot all by myself for a few seconds
- I can hop over small toys or other objects without jumping on them
- I can jump off a curb or step without falling
- I can ride my tricycle