

Your Child at 1 Year

Milestones matter! How your child plays, learns, speaks, acts, and moves offers important clues about his or her development. Check the milestones your child has reached by age 1. Take this with you and talk with your child's doctor at every visit about the milestones your child has reached and what to expect next.

What Most Children Do by this Age:

Social/Emotional

- ☒ Is shy or nervous with strangers
- ☒ Cries when mom or dad leaves
- ☒ Has favourite things and people
- ☒ Shows fear in some situations
- ☒ Hands you a book when he wants to hear a story
- ☒ Repeats sounds or actions to get attention
- ☒ Puts out arm or leg to help with dressing
- ☒ Plays games such as "peek-a-boo" and "pat-a-cake"

Language/Communication

- ☒ Responds to simple spoken requests
- ☒ Uses simple gestures, like shaking head "no" or waving "bye-bye"
- ☒ Makes sounds with changes in tone (sounds more like speech)
- ☒ Says "mama" and "dada" and exclamations like "uh-oh!"
- ☒ Tries to say words you say

Cognitive (learning, thinking, problem-solving)

- ☒ Explores things in different ways, like shaking, banging, throwing
- ☒ Finds hidden things easily
- ☒ Looks at the right picture or thing when it's named
- ☒ Copies gestures
- ☒ Starts to use things correctly; for example, drinks from
 - ☒ a cup, brushes hair
 - ☒ Bangs two things together
 - ☒ Puts things in a container, takes things out of a container
 - ☒ Lets things go without help
 - ☒ Pokes with index (pointer) finger
 - ☒ Follows simple directions like "pick up the toy"

Movement/Physical Development

- ☒ Gets to a sitting position without help
- ☒ Pulls up to stand, walks holding on to furniture ("cruising")
- ☒ May take a few steps without holding on
- ☒ May stand alone

KNOW YOUR CHILD BEST

Act early if you have concerns about the way your child plays, learns, speaks, acts, or moves, or if your child:

- Is missing milestones
- Doesn't crawl
- Can't stand when supported
- Doesn't search for things that she sees you hide.
- Doesn't say single words like "mama" or "dada"
- Doesn't learn gestures like waving or shaking head
- Doesn't point to things
- Loses skills he once had

Tell your child's doctor or nurse if you notice any of these signs of possible developmental delay and ask for a developmental screening.

DON'T WAIT.

Acting early can make a real difference

Help Your Child Learn and Grow

You can help your child learn and grow. Talk, read, sing, and play together every day. Below are some activities to enjoy with your 1-year-old child today.

- ☐ Give your child time to get to know a new caregiver. Bring a favourite toy, stuffed animal, or blanket to help comfort your child.
- ☐ In response to unwanted behaviours, say “no” firmly. Do not yell, smack, or give long explanations. A time out for 30 seconds to 1 minute might help redirect your child.
- ☐ Give your child lots of hugs, kisses, and praise for good behaviour.
- ☐ Spend a lot more time encouraging wanted behaviours than punishing unwanted behaviours (4 times as much encouragement for wanted behaviours as redirection for unwanted behaviours).
- ☐ Talk to your child about what you’re doing. For example, “Mummy is washing your hands with a washcloth.”
- ☐ Read with your child every day. Have your child turn the pages. Take turns labelling pictures with your child.
- ☐ Build on what your child says or tries to say, or what he points to. If he points to a truck and says “t” or “truck,” say, “Yes, that’s a big, blue truck.”
- ☐ Give your child crayons and paper, and let your child draw freely. Show your child how to draw lines up and down and across the page. Praise your child
- ☐ Play with blocks, shape sorters, and other toys that encourage your child to use his hands.
- ☐ Hide small toys and other things and have your child find them.
- ☐ Ask your child to label body parts or things you see while driving in the car.
- ☐ Sing songs with actions, like “The Incy Wincy Spider” and “Wheels on the Bus.” Help your child do the actions with you.
- ☐ Give your child pots and pans or a small musical instrument like a drum or cymbals. Encourage your child to make noise.
- ☐ Provide lots of safe places for your toddler to explore. (Toddler-proof your home. Lock away products for cleaning, laundry, lawn care, and car care. Use a safety gate and lock doors to the outside and the basement.)
- ☐ Give your child push toys like a wagon or “kiddie push car.”

Milestones adapted from CARING FOR YOUR BABY AND YOUNG CHILD: BIRTH TO AGE 5, Fifth Edition, edited by Steven Shelov and Tanya Remer Altmann © 1991, 1993, 1998, 2004, 2009 by the American Academy of Pediatrics and BRIGHT FUTURES: GUIDELINES FOR HEALTH SUPERVISION OF INFANTS, CHILDREN, AND ADOLESCENTS, Third Edition, edited by Joseph Hagan, Jr., Judith S. Shaw, and Paula M. Duncan, 2008, Elk Grove Village, IL: American Academy of Pediatrics via CDC (U.S) at <https://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/actearly/milestones/> adjusted for UK advice.