The journey of your child’s early years includes many developmental milestones for how he or she plays, learns, speaks, and acts.

Look inside to learn what to look for in your child. Talk with your child’s doctor about these milestones.

Not reaching these milestones, or reaching them much later than other children, could be a sign of a developmental delay.

For more information about your child’s development and what to do if you have a concern, visit:

www.cdc.gov/ActEarly

OR CALL:
1-800-CDC-INFO

to request a FREE “Learn the Signs. Act Early.” Parent Kit or to get help finding resources in your area.

Developmental milestones adapted from Caring for Your Baby and Young Child: Birth to Age 5 (AAP, 2009) and Bright Futures: Guidelines for Health Supervision of Infants, Children, and Adolescents (AAP, 2008).
Your Child’s Early Development is a Journey
Check off the milestones your child has reached and share your child’s progress with the doctor at every visit.

6 MONTHS
- Copies sounds
- Begins to sit without support
- Likes to play with others, especially parents
- Responds to own name
- Strings vowels together when babbling (“ah,” “eh,” “oh”)
- Uses simple gestures such as shaking head for “no” or waving “bye bye”
- Copies gestures

12 MONTHS (1 YEAR)
- Responds to simple spoken requests
- Says “mama” and “dada”
- Pulls up to stand

18 MONTHS (1½ YEARS)
- Says sentences with 2 to 4 words
- Gets excited when with other children
- Says several single words
- Walks alone
- Knows what ordinary things are for, for example, telephone, brush, spoon
- Plays simple pretend, such as feeding a doll
- Points to others something interesting

2 YEARS
- Follows simple instructions
- Kicks a ball
- Copies adults and friends (like running when other children run)
- Points to things or pictures when they’re named

3 YEARS
- Carries on a conversation using 2 to 3 sentences
- Climbs well
- Plays make-believe with dolls, animals and people
- Shows affection for friends without prompting
- Hops and stands on one foot for up to 2 seconds

4 YEARS
- Would rather play with other children than alone
- Tells stories
- Draws a person with 2 to 4 body parts
- Plays cooperatively

These are just a few of many important milestones to look for. For more complete checklists by age visit www.cdc.gov/ActEarly or call 1-800-CDC-INFO.