



Developmental Milestones (2-3 years)

Patient Factsheet

Released June 2017

What is it?

GPs use milestones to track your child's development. Milestones are the skills and tasks children can do at different ages. If your child is not meeting one or more milestones, there may be a cause for concern. See the developmental concerns in children factsheet for more information and supports.

DOMAIN

MILESTONE

NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Fine Motor



24-30 months

- Hand preference developing
- Threads large beads, puts pieces into puzzles, builds with up to three blocks
- Tries and wash own hands
- Feeds self with spoon/fork
- Can logically sequence in play (e.g. put blocks in truck, drive truck, dump blocks)

30-36 months

- Holds onto a pencil to draw and imitate simple strokes
- Assists with dressing and is able to take off most clothes
- Play involves logical, detailed actions; less frequent events e.g., going to movies/zoo
- Can use an object to represent different things in play
- Matches two to three colours

- Unable to copy / draw lines, crosses and circles
- Unable to use cutlery
- Unable to undo buttons
- No ability with scissors (although ability can depend on experience)
- Continually seeking out certain textures, sounds, or movements
- Sensitive to or avoids certain textures, sounds, or movements

Gross Motor



- Walks up and down stairs with two feet to a step (2 years), alternate feet to ascend (3 years)
- Can jump off a step
- Tries to stand on one foot (2 years), three seconds on preferred leg (3 years)
- Starting to run (2 years), able to run, change directions, step over obstacles without falling over frequently
- Throw and kick a ball
- Climbs on and off an adult chair
- Kneels upright without support

- Unsteady balance
- Can't balance on one foot
- Weakness
- Poor quality movement
- Clumsy
- Falls often

Social Skills



- Responds differently to family or other familiar people
- Looks for a familiar person when in need of attention
- Plays beside other children
- Dramatic play e.g. feeds doll, talks on pretend phone
- Experiencing tantrums but able to be calmed down

- No interest in learning how to dress self
- No awareness or response to name
- No interest in helping in social or household activities
- No apparent awareness of own feeling
- Unable to name own sex
- No interest in learning to feed self
- Play is mechanical and repetitive with little change, imagination or human content
- Does not respond to parent's attempts to calm child down

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DOMAIN

MILESTONE

NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Speech & Language



Feeding: eats most adult foods without difficulty

24-30 months

- Says about 200 words including nouns, verbs and modifiers (may use words such as 'tar' for 'car')
- Uses sentences with two to four words
- Uses words such as "me" to name themselves

30-36 months

- Follows instructions with two simple parts e.g. find your shoes and socks, if part of a daily routine.
- Asks questions beginning in "wh" e.g., "what's daddy doing"
- Uses sentences using more than 4 words
- Makes these sounds w, p, b, k, g, t, d, n, m, h, y
- Uses verbs with '-ing' e.g., jumping
- Uses plurals (e.g. dogs)

- Persistent copying of talking/echolalia e.g. repeating parts of movies, phrases
- Mostly can't understand
- Limited grammar and vocabulary
- Limited content, interest or variation in the language
- Can't follow a 2 to 3 step instruction
- Still understands only simplified baby language

Cognitive



- Play includes imaginary objects
- Draws face with crude features
- Recognises number
- Repeats back two to three numbers
- Understands concepts of bigger and smaller
- Recognises money

- Play shows little imagination
- No understanding of using pen beyond scribble
- No understanding of numbers beyond copying, counting
- No awareness of money

