

Typical and Atypical Childhood Development  
 Module 1: Birth through 3 Years of Age  
 Matrices

	Typical Developmental Milestones	Atypical Development (Missing or Not Meeting Anticipated Milestone)	Notes
<b>2 MONTHS (Birth to Three Years Old)</b>			
SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL	Begins to smile at people	Doesn't smile at people	
	Can briefly calm him/herself (may bring hands to mouth and suck on hand)		
	Tries to look at parent		
LANGUAGE AND COMMUNICATION	Coos, makes gurgling sounds	Doesn't respond to loud sounds	
	Turns head toward sounds	Doesn't smile at people	
COGNITIVE (learning, thinking, problem-solving)	Pays attention to faces	Doesn't watch things as they move	
	Begins to follow things with eyes and recognize people at a distance		
	Begins to act bored (cries, fussy) if activity doesn't change		
MOVEMENT AND PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT	Can hold head up and begins to push up when lying on tummy	Doesn't bring hands to mouth	
	Makes smoother movements with arms and legs	Can't hold head up when pushing up when on tummy	

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<b>4 MONTHS (Birth to Three Years Old)</b>			
SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL	Smiles spontaneously, especially at people	Doesn't smile at people	
	Likes to play with people and might cry when playing stops		
	Copies some movements and facial expressions, like smiling or frowning		
LANGUAGE AND COMMUNICATION	Begins to babble	Doesn't coo or make sounds	
	Babbles with expression and copies sounds he/she hears		
	Cries in different ways to show hunger, pain, or being tired		
COGNITIVE (learning, thinking, problem-solving)	Lets you know if he/she is happy or sad	Doesn't watch things as they move	
	Responds to affection	Has trouble moving one or both eyes in all directions	
	Reaches for toy with one hand		
	Uses hands and eyes together, such as seeing a toy and reaching for it		
	Follows moving things with eyes from side to side		
	Watches faces closely		

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<b>4 MONTHS (Birth to Three Years Old)</b>			
	Recognizes familiar people and things at a distance		
MOVEMENT AND PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT	Holds head steady, unsupported	Doesn't bring things to mouth	
	Pushes down on legs when feet are on a hard surface	Doesn't push down with legs when feet are placed on a hard surface	
	May be able to roll over from tummy to back		
	Can hold a toy and shake it and swing at dangling toys		
	Brings hands to mouth		
	When lying on stomach, pushes up to elbows		

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<b>6 MONTHS (Birth to Three Years Old)</b>			
SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL	Knows familiar faces and begins to know if someone is a stranger	Shows no affection for caregivers	
	Likes to play with others, especially parents		
	Responds to other people's emotions and often seems happy		
	Likes to look at self in a mirror		
LANGUAGE AND COMMUNICATION	Responds to sounds by making sounds	Doesn't make vowel sounds ("ah," "eh," "oh")	
	Strings vowels together when babbling ("ah," "eh," "oh") and likes taking turns with parent while making sounds	Doesn't laugh or make squealing sounds	
	Responds to own name	Doesn't respond to sounds around him/her	
	Makes sounds to show joy and displeasure		
	Begins to say consonant sounds (jabbering with "m," "b")		
COGNITIVE (learning, thinking, problem-solving)	Looks around at things nearby	Has difficulty getting things to mouth	
	Brings things to mouth	Doesn't try to get things that are in reach	
	Shows curiosity about things and tries to get things that are out of reach		

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<b>6 MONTHS (Birth to Three Years Old)</b>			
	Begins to pass things from one hand to another		
MOVEMENT AND PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT	Rolls over in both directions (front to back, back to front)	Seems very stiff, with tight muscles	
	Begins to sit without support	Seems very floppy, like a rag doll	
	When standing, supports weight on legs and might bounce	Doesn't roll over in either direction	
	Rocks back and forth, sometimes crawling backward before moving forward		

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	Typical Developmental Milestones	Atypical Development (Missing or Not Meeting Anticipated Milestones)	NOTES
<b>9 MONTHS (Birth to Three Years Old)</b>			
SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL	May be afraid of strangers	Doesn't seem to recognize familiar people	
	May be clingy with familiar adults		
	Has favorite toys		
LANGUAGE AND COMMUNICATION	Understands "no"	Doesn't babble ("mama," "baba," "dada")	
	Makes a lot of different sounds like "mamamama" and "bababababa"		
	Copies sounds and gestures of others		
	Uses fingers to point at things		
COGNITIVE (learning, thinking, problem-solving)	Watches the path of something as it falls	Doesn't transfer toys from one hand to another	
	Looks for things he/she sees you hide	Doesn't play any games involving back-and-forth play	
	Plays peek-a-boo	Doesn't look where you point	
	Puts things in their mouth	Doesn't respond to own name	
	Moves things smoothly from one hand to another		
	Picks up things (like cereal O's between thumb and index finger)		

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<b>9 MONTHS (Birth to Three Years Old)</b>			
MOVEMENT AND PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT	Stands, holding on	Doesn't bear weight on legs with support	
	Can get into sitting position	Doesn't sit with help	
	Sits without support		
	Pulls to stand		
	Crawls		

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	Typical Developmental Milestones	Atypical Development (Missing or Not Meeting Anticipated Milestone)	NOTES
<b>12 MONTHS   1 Year of Age (Birth to Three Years Old)</b>			
SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL	Is shy or nervous with strangers		
	Cries when mom or dad leaves		
	Has favorite 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 AND COMMUNICATION	Responds to simple, spoken requests	Doesn't say single words like “mama” or “dada”	
	Uses simple gestures, like shaking head “no” or waving “bye-bye”	Doesn't learn gestures like waving or shaking head	
	Makes sounds with changes in tone (sounds more like speech)	Doesn't point to things	
	Says “mama” and “dada” and exclamations like “uh-oh!”		
	Tries to say words you say		

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<b>12 MONTHS   1 Year of Age (Birth to Three Years Old)</b>			
COGNITIVE (learning, thinking, problem-solving)	Explores things in different ways, like shaking, banging, throwing	Doesn't search for things that he/she sees you hide	
	Finds hidden things easily		
	Looks at the right picture or thing when it is 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 AND PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT	Gets to a sitting position without help	Loses skills he/she once had	
	Pulls up to stand, walks holding on to furniture ("cruising")	Doesn't crawl	
	May take a few steps without holding on	Can't stand when supported	
	May stand alone		

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<b>2 YEARS OF AGE (Birth to Three Years Old)</b>			
SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL	Copies others, especially adults and older children	Doesn't copy actions and words	
	Gets excited when with other children	Loses skills he/she once had	
	Shows more and more independence		
	Shows defiant behavior (doing what he/she has been told not to)		
	Plays mainly beside other children, but is beginning to include other children, such as in chase games		
LANGUAGE AND COMMUNICATION	Points to things or pictures when they are named	Doesn't use 2-word phrases (for example: "drink milk")	
	Knows names of familiar people and body parts	Doesn't follow simple instructions	
	Says sentences with two to four words		
	Follows simple instructions		
	Repeats words overheard in conversation		
	Points to things in a book		

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<b>2 YEARS OF AGE (Birth to Three Years Old)</b>			
COGNITIVE (learning, thinking, problem-solving)	Finds things even when hidden under two and three covers	Doesn't know what to do with common things, like brush, phone, fork, spoon	
	Begins to sort shapes and colors		
	Completes sentences and rhymes in familiar books		
	Plays simple make-believe games		
	Builds towers of four or more blocks		
	Might use one hand more than the other		
MOVEMENT AND PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT	Stands on tiptoe	Doesn't walk steadily	
	Kicks a ball		
	Begins to run		
	Climbs onto and down from furniture without help		
	Walks up and down stairs holding on		
	Throws ball overhand		
	Makes or copies straight lines and circles		

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<b>3 YEARS OF AGE (Birth to Three Years Old)</b>			
SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL	Copies adults and friends	Doesn't want to play with other children or with toys	
	Shows affection for friends without prompting	Doesn't make eye contact	
	Takes turns in games	Loses skills he/she once had	
	Shows concern for crying friend		
	Understands the idea of "mine" and "his" and "hers"		
	Shows a wide range of emotions		
	Separates easily from mom and dad		
	May get upset with major changes in routine		
Dresses and undresses self			
LANGUAGE AND COMMUNICATION	Follows instructions with two or three steps	Drools or has very unclear speech	
	Can name most familiar things	Doesn't speak in sentences	
	Understands words like "in," "on" and "under"	Doesn't understand simple instructions	
	Says first name, age, and sex		
	Names a friend		
	Says words like "I," "me," "we," and "you" and some plurals (cars, dogs, cats)		
	Talks well enough for strangers to understand most of the time		

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<b>3 YEARS OF AGE (Birth to Three Years Old)</b>			
	Carries on a conversation using two to three sentences		
COGNITIVE (learning, thinking, problem-solving)	Can work toys with buttons, levers, and moving parts	Can't work simple toys (such as peg boards, simple puzzles, turning handle)	
	Plays make-believe with dolls, animals, and people	Doesn't play pretend or make believe	
	Does puzzles with three or four pieces		
	Understands what "two" means		
	Copies a circle with pencil or crayon		
	Turns book pages one at a time		
	Builds towers of more than six blocks		
	Screws and unscrews jar lids or turns door handle		
MOVEMENT AND PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT	Climbs well	Falls down a lot or has trouble with stairs	
	Runs easily		
	Pedals a tricycle (three-wheel bike)		
	Walks up and down stairs, one foot on each step		