

Differences in Development

As a parent, you know your baby best. You notice things such as how and when your baby smiles, sits up, learns new words, walks, or holds a cup. What you are seeing is how your child is growing through different stages of development.

Every baby grows and develops at his or her own pace. It is important to talk with your child's healthcare provider at every visit about the milestones your baby has reached and what to expect next. It is also important to tell your baby's healthcare provider if you notice any of these signs of possible developmental delay. Please make sure to discuss your concerns if:

By age 2 months, your baby:

- Doesn't respond to loud sounds
- Doesn't watch things as they move
- Doesn't smile at people
- Doesn't bring hands to mouth
- Can't hold head up when pushing up, when on tummy

By age 4 months, your baby:

- Doesn't watch things as they move
- Doesn't smile at people
- Can't hold head steady
- Doesn't coo or make sounds
- Doesn't bring things to mouth
- Doesn't push down with legs when feet are placed on a hard surface
- Has trouble moving one or both eyes in all directions

By age 6 months, your baby:

- Doesn't try to get things that are in reach
- Shows no affection for caregivers

- Doesn't respond to sounds around him or her
- Has difficulty getting things to mouth
- Seems very floppy
- Doesn't make vowel sounds (such as "ah," "eh," "oh")
- Doesn't roll over in either direction
- Doesn't laugh or make squealing sounds
- Seems very stiff, with tight muscles

By age 9 months, your baby:

- Doesn't bear weight on legs with support
- Doesn't sit with help
- Doesn't babble ("mama," "baba," "dada")
- Doesn't play any games involving back-and-forth play
- Doesn't respond to own name
- Doesn't seem to recognize familiar people
- Doesn't look where you point
- Doesn't transfer toys from one hand to the other