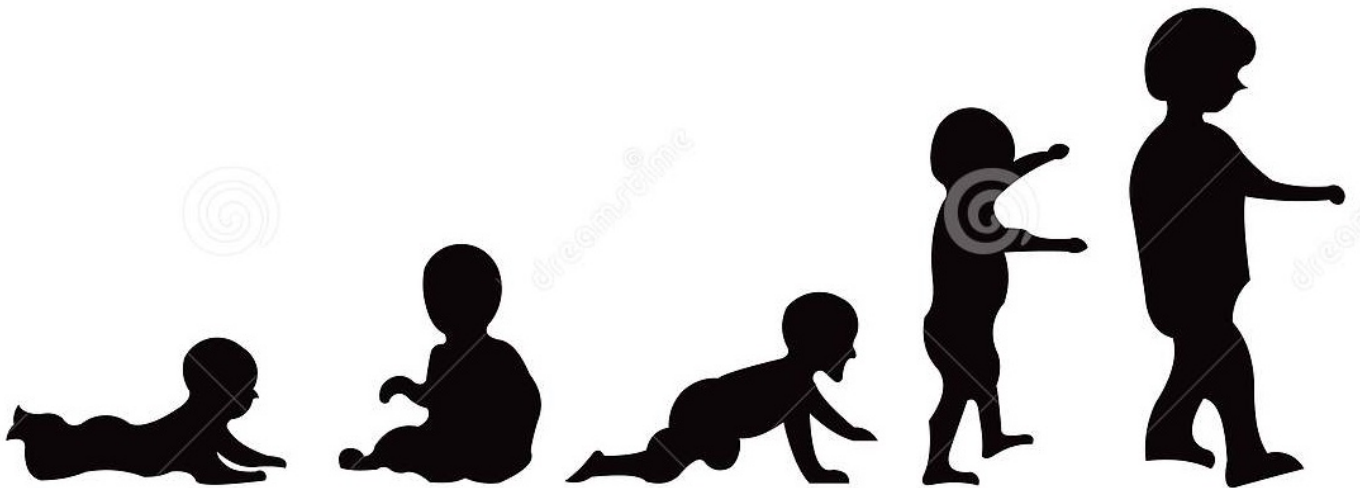


Developmental Guidelines for Children with Visual Impairments

Babies development is greatly influenced by factors in his or her environment and the experiences he or she has.

Babies with a visual impairment develop at a slower pace, it is normal. Thus, developmental milestones will be different for your baby than for sighted babies.

This document presents developmental guidelines by years and months. The following are just guidelines, consider it in the context of your baby's unique development.



Year 1

0 to 3 months

- Recognizes caregiver's voice
- Can be soothed by voice or touch
- Smiles when played with
- Differentiated cries (has different cries for different wants)
- Responds to familiar voices
- Ignores certain sounds and attends to others
- Recognizes primary caregiver
- Plays with rattle
- Cries when hungry or uncomfortable
- Plays with hands
- Uses hands for purposeful action
- Retains object placed in hand
- Plays with toys that produce sound
- Holds hand steady while being moved
- Lifts head up when on belly
- Elevates self by arms when on belly

4 to 6 months

- Initiates request for attention
- Turns toward sound
- Makes 3 different vowel sounds
- Imitates vocalization
- Places objects in mouth
- Shows preference in play materials
- Reaches for object in contact with body
- Uses pad of fingertips to grasp small objects
- Transfer object from hand to hand
- Brings object to midline
- Pulls objects out of container
- Sits with some support
- Rolls from belly to back, from back to belly
- Sits alone steady
- Pulls to standing while holding your hands
- Moves forward through crawling, creeping or any other method

7 to 9 months

- Differentiates between familiar and unfamiliar people
- Shows stranger anxiety
- Shows fear of separation
- Produces vowel-consonant combinations (ga-ga or ba-ba)
- Recognizes familiar sounds or phrases
- Explores different textures
- Uncovers toy
- Pulls string to activate toy
- Searches briefly for object lost from grasp but not in contact with body
- Reaches for object based only on sound cue
- Places object in container upon request
- Plays pat-a-cake
- Pulls self to sitting position
- Pulls to standing position using furniture
- Sits down
- Attempts to walk while holding your hand
- Creeps forward on hands and knees 3 feet or more
- Takes coordinated steps while holding your hand

10 to 12 months

- Uses gestures
- Cries when caregiver leaves
- Begins to enjoy social games like peek-a-boo
- Responds appropriately to familiar requests
- Jabbers expressively
- Begins to name things
- Moves or gestures toward you when called
- Locates fixed (constant) object (highchair or table)
- Puts many objects in container
- Learns that an object exists even if out of sight
- Works to solve simple problems
- Begins to understand cause and effect
- Places one peg repeatedly into hole
- Stands alone
- Bends down to pick up object
- Walks sideways holding on to furniture
- Walks 5 steps with good coordination
- Pushes small obstacles out of the way
- Walks about house or yard independently

Year 2

13 to 15 months

Anticipates routines in response to a familiar request
Uses 2 words appropriately
Uses 2 related objects (strikes drum with stick)
Uses object to perform social action (brushes hair)
Moves around large obstacle
Walks up and down stairs with help

16 to 18 months

Uses words to make wants known

19 to 21 months

Uses 8 words appropriately
Strings 2 words together (ma-ma bye-bye)

22 to 24 months

Imitates caregiver
Plays alongside other children
Asks others when needs help
Uses 2 and 3 words sentences
Matches objects
Pays attention to activities longer
Stacks large objects
Squats

Year 3

24 to 36 months

Enjoys helping around the house
Likes to be praised after doing simple tasks
Is aware of people's feelings
Understands most simple language
Communicates clearly
Fits shapes into matching holes
Sorts objects
Takes things apart and puts them together
Uses hands for complex tasks
Throws a ball
Runs, jumps, climbs

REMEMBER

Consider these guidelines in the context of your baby's unique development.

Source: <https://www.wonderbaby.org/articles/development-charts>