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.

You know your child best.

If you are concerned about your child’s development, talk to your child’s doctor.

If you or the doctor is still concerned, ask the doctor for a referral to a specialist and call 1-800-CDC-INFO to learn how to get connected with your state’s early childhood system to get the help your child might need.

Don’t wait.

Acting early can make a real difference!

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

NJ Early Intervention (ages 0 to 3 years) 888-653-4463
Project Child Find (ages 3 to 21 years) 800-322-8174
SPAN www.SPANadvocacy.org 800-654-7726
For early childhood services call:
Help Me Grow NJ 2-1-1

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
- Responds to simple spoken requests
- Plays simple pretend, such as feeding a doll
- Points to show others something interesting
- Says “mama” and “dada”
- Knows what ordinary things are for; for example, telephone, brush, spoon
- Says sentences with 2 to 4 words
- Gets excited when with other children
- Follows simple instructions
- Kicks a ball
- Points to things or pictures when they’re named

12 MONTHS (1 YEAR)
- Uses simple gestures such as shaking head for “no” or waving “bye bye”
- Copies gestures
- Responds to simple spoken requests
- Says “mama” and “dada”
- Pulls up to stand
- Plays simple pretend, such as feeding a doll
- Points to show others something interesting
- Says sentences with 2 to 4 words
- Gets excited when with other children
- Follows simple instructions
- Kicks a ball
- Points to things or pictures when they’re named

18 MONTHS (1½ YEARS)
- Plays simple pretend, such as feeding a doll
- Points to show others something interesting
- Says “mama” and “dada”
- Pulls up to stand
- Plays simple pretend, such as feeding a doll
- Points to show others something interesting
- Says sentences with 2 to 4 words
- Gets excited when with other children
- Follows simple instructions
- Kicks a ball
- Points to things or pictures when they’re named

2 YEARS
- Plays simple pretend, such as feeding a doll
- Points to show others something interesting
- Says “mama” and “dada”
- Pulls up to stand
- Plays simple pretend, such as feeding a doll
- Points to show others something interesting
- Says sentences with 2 to 4 words
- Gets excited when with other children
- Follows simple instructions
- Kicks a ball
- Points to things or pictures when they’re named

3 YEARS
- 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
- Would rather play with other children than alone
- Tells stories
- Draws a person with 2 to 4 body parts
- Plays cooperatively
- Carries on a conversation using 2 to 3 sentences
- Climbs well
- Copies adults and friends (like running when other children run)
- Points to things or pictures when they’re named
- Follows simple instructions
- Kicks a ball

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.