

Second Year Milestones

Developmental Milestones by the End of the Second Year

Developmental Milestones by the End of 2 Years					
Movement	Hand and Finger Skills	Language	Cognitive	Social	Emotional
Walks alone	Scribbles spontaneously	Points to object or picture when it's named for him/her	Finds objects even when hidden under two or three covers	Imitates behavior of others, especially adults and older children	Demonstrates increasing independence
Pulls toys behind him/her while walking	Turns over container to pour out contents	Recognizes names of familiar people, objects, and body parts	Begins to sort by shapes and colors	Increasingly aware of herself as separate from others	Begins to show defiant behavior
Carries large toy or several toys while walking	Builds tower of four blocks or more	Says several single words (by 15 to 18 months)	Begins to make-believe play	Increasingly enthusiastic about company of other children	Episodes of separation anxiety increase toward midyear than fade
Begins to run	Might use one hand more frequently than the other	Uses simple phrases (by 18 to 24 months)			
Stands on tiptoe		Uses two-to-four-word sentences			
Kicks a ball		Follows simple instructions			
Climbs onto and down from furniture unassisted		Repeats words overheard in conversation			
Walks up and down stairs holding on to support					

Developmental Health Watch

Because each child develops at his own particular pace, it's impossible to tell exactly when yours will perfect a given skill. The developmental milestones will give you a general idea of the changes you can expect as your child gets older, but don't be alarmed if he takes a slightly different course. Alert your pediatrician, however, if he displays any of the following signs of possible developmental delay for this age range.

Cannot walk by 18 months
Fails to develop a mature heel-toe walking pattern after several months of walking, or walks exclusively on his toes

Does not speak at least 15 words by 18 months
Does not use two-word sentences by age 2
By 15 months, does not seem to know the function of common household objects (brush, telephone, bell, fork, spoon)
Does not imitate actions or words by the end of this period
Does not follow simple instructions by age 2
Cannot push a wheeled toy by age 2

Excerpted from Caring for Baby and Young Child: Birth to Age 5, Bantam 1999

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