

Third Year Milestones

Developmental Milestones by the End of 3 Years					
Movement	Hand and Finger Skills	Language	Cognitive	Social	Emotional
<p>Climbs well</p> <p>Walks up and down stairs, alternating feet</p> <p>Kicks ball</p> <p>Runs easily</p> <p>Pedals tricycle</p> <p>Bends over easily without falling</p>	<p>Makes vertical, horizontal, and circular strokes with pencil or crayon</p> <p>Turns book pages one at a time</p> <p>Builds a tower of more than six blocks</p> <p>Holds a pencil in writing position</p> <p>Screws and unscrews jar lids, nuts, and bolts</p> <p>Turns rotating handles</p>	<p>Follows a two-or-three component command</p> <p>Recognizes and identifies almost all common objects and pictures</p> <p>Understands most sentences</p> <p>Understands physical relationships (“on”, “in”, “under”)</p> <p>Uses four-and-five-word sentences</p> <p>Can say name, age, and sex</p> <p>Uses pronouns (I, you, me, we, they) and some plurals (cars, dogs, cats)</p> <p>Strangers can understand most of his/her words</p>	<p>Makes mechanical toys work</p> <p>Matches an object in her hand or room to a picture in a book</p> <p>Plays make-believe with dolls, animals, and people</p> <p>Sorts objects by shapes and color</p> <p>Completes puzzles with three or four pieces</p> <p>Understands concept of “two”</p>	<p>Imitates adults and playmates</p> <p>Spontaneously shows affection for familiar playmates</p> <p>Can take turns in games</p> <p>Understands concept of “mine” and “his/hers”</p>	<p>Expresses affection openly</p> <p>Expresses a wide range of emotions</p> <p>By 3, separates easily from parents</p> <p>Objects to major changes in routine</p>

Developmental Health Watch

The developmental milestones give you a general idea of the changes you can expect as your child gets older, but don't be alarmed if her development takes a slightly different course. Each child

develops at her own pace. Do consult your pediatrician, however, if your child displays any of the following signs of possible developmental delay for this age range.

Frequent falling and difficulty with stairs

Persistent drooling or very unclear speech

Inability to build a tower of more than four blocks

Difficulty manipulating small objects

Inability to copy a circle by age 3

Inability to communicate in short phrases

No involvement in "pretend" play

Failure to understand simple instructions

Little interest in other children

Extreme difficulty separating from mother or primary care giver

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

© Copyright 2000 American Academy of Pediatrics

This information has been created for educational purposes only and is not intended to serve as medical advice. It should not be used for diagnosing or treating a health problem or disease. It is not a substitute for professional care. If your child has any health concerns, please consult your health care provider.