

Developmental Milestones

Nursing

Approximate ages for common milestones, and what actually prompts referral.

Approximate typical ages. Wide normal variation; ranges matter more than dates.

First year

6 weeks · responsive social smile

4 months · reaches for objects

6–9 months · sits without support

9–12 months · pulls to stand, pincer grasp

12 months · one or two meaningful words

One to five years

18 months · walks steadily, several words

2 years · runs, two-word phrases

3 years · short sentences, stairs

4 years · draws a person, dresses with help

5 years · hops, tells a simple story

Educational reference. A single late milestone is not a diagnosis. Loss of an acquired skill, or persistent parental concern, is always referred.