



Social-Emotional Development Guide

Support the social-emotional development of your child, from 2- to 60-months old, by checking for these important milestones.

2

Month

Milestones

Your baby...

- lets you know she is happy by cooing, smiling, laughing, and gurgling.
- likes to play with her fingers hands, feet, and toes.
- looks at your face and may look in your eyes, but only for a few seconds at first.



6

Month

Milestones

Your baby...

- responds to your affection and may begin to show you signs of affection.
- sometimes sucks on her fingers and hands to calm down.
- will sometimes stop crying when you talk to him rather than pick him up.



12

Month

Milestones

Your baby...

- shows many emotions, such as happiness, sadness, anger, and discomfort.
- responds differently to strangers than she does to family members and friends.
- imitates other children and adults. She may imitate sounds, actions, and facial expressions.



18

Month

Milestones

Your toddler...

- is generally happy and smiles at other people, including other children.
- enjoys playing near other children but not with them quite yet.
- is showing different emotions, such as fear, guilt, sympathy, modesty, or embarrassment.



24

Month

Milestones

Your toddler...

- likes to imitate you, other adults, and her friends.
- likes to use the words mine, no, and me do it.
- enjoys simple pretend play. He may like pretending to cook or talk on the telephone.



30

Month

Milestones

Your child...

- greets familiar adults and is happy to see friends.
- likes to be loved and cuddled—but not in the middle of playtime.
- is getting louder and bossier at times. He may talk with a loud, urgent voice.



36

Month

Milestones

Your child...

- uses imagination to create stories through pretend play.
- can sometimes use her words to express her feelings.
- is learning to follow simple rules, although he sometimes needs gentle reminders.



48

Month

Milestones

Your child...

- now understands short and simple rules at home.
- loves silly jokes and has a sense of humor.
- is beginning to share. He takes turns but is possessive of his favorite toys.



60

Month

Milestones

Your child...

- may play with small groups of children at the park or at school.
- now plays simple games such as Candy Land and Go Fish.
- is beginning to understand the meaning of right and wrong. She does not always do what is right, though.

