



Social-Emotional Development Guide

Support the social-emotional development of children
by checking for these important milestones.

2 Month Milestones

Babies...

- let you know they are happy by cooing, smiling, laughing, and gurgling.
- like to play with their fingers, hands, feet, and toes.
- look at your face and may look in your eyes, but only for a few seconds at first.



6 Month Milestones

Babies...

- respond to your affection and may begin to show you signs of affection.
- sometimes suck on their fingers and hands to calm down.
- will sometimes stop crying when you talk to them rather than pick them up.



12 Month Milestones

Babies...

- show many emotions, such as happiness, sadness, anger, and discomfort.
- respond differently to strangers than they do to family members and friends.
- imitate other children and adults. They may imitate sounds, actions, and facial expressions.



18 Month Milestones

Toddlers...

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



24 Month Milestones

Toddlers...

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



30 Month Milestones

Children...

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



36 Month Milestones

Children...

- use imagination to create stories through pretend play.
- can sometimes use their words to express their feelings.
- are learning to follow simple rules, although they sometimes need gentle reminders.



48 Month Milestones

Children...

- now understand short and simple rules at home.
- love silly jokes and have a sense of humor.
- are beginning to share. They take turns but are possessive of their favorite toys.



60 Month Milestones

Children...

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

