

“How I Learn”

Your child will develop and grow in his or her abilities as they age.

Here are benchmarks you can look for in your own child's development.



From Birth to 3 Months, Your Child Should:

- Begin to smile
- Follow moving objects with their eyes
- Discover hands and feet
- Lift their head and turn to hear sounds
- Be able to cry, but feel better when held

From 4 to 6 Months, Your Child Should:

- Smile, laugh and imitate sounds
- Sit up when propped
- Roll over, scoot and bounce
- Grasp objects in their hand

From 7 to 12 Months, Your Child Should:

- Recognize familiar voices
- Recognize himself or herself in a mirror
- Understand his or her name
- Say their first words
- Explore his or her surroundings
- Bang and shake objects
- Sit up by themselves
- Pull themselves up to stand and toddle

From 1-2 Years, Your Child Should:

- Imitate adults and help you with tasks
- Talk and understand words and ideas
- Enjoy stories and try new things
- Walk, climb stairs and run
- Recognize objects that belong to them
- Solve simple problems
- Have friends and play make believe

From 2 to 3 1/2 Years, Your Child Should:

- Like and learn new things
- Learn new words quickly
- Have lots of energy and be on the go
- Have control of fingers and hands
- Get frustrated easily
- Be more independent, but still depend on you
- Act out scenes when playing

From 3 1/2 to 5 Years, Your Child Should:

- Have longer attention spans
- Act silly, loud and use language that isn't nice
- Be interested in numbers and letters
- Talk a lot and ask a lot of questions
- Want real adult things
- Want to keep their artwork
- Test physical skills with caution
- Reveal feelings to you in dramatic play
- Like to play with friends, but not like to lose
- Know how to take turns sharing toys, etc.

From 5 to 8 Years, Your Child Should:

- Be curious about people and how things work
- Be interested in reading and writing
- Have more confidence in physical skills
- Use words to express feelings
- Like grown-up activities
- Like to meet and play with more children

Based on, Toys: Tools for Learning from the National Association for the Education of Young Children

