

Important Milestones: Your child at Five Years:

How your child plays, learns, speaks and acts will give you important clues about your child's development. Developmental milestones are things that a majority of children can do by a certain age.

Look at what your child has reached by his or 5th birthday and discuss this with your child's doctor next time you see them and find out what to expect next.

What most babies do at this age:

Social and Emotional

- Wants to please friends
- Wants to be like friends
- More likely to agree with rules
- Likes to sing, dance, and act
- Shows concern and sympathy for others
- Is aware of gender
- Can tell what's real and what's make-believe
- Shows more independence (for example, may visit a next-door neighbor by himself [adult supervision is still needed])
- Is sometimes demanding and sometimes very cooperative

Language/Communication

- Speaks very clearly
- Tells a simple story using full sentences
- Uses future tense; for example, "Grandma will be here"
- Says name and address

Cognitive (learning, thinking, problem-solving)

- Counts 10 or more things
- Can draw a person with at least 6 body parts
- Can print some letters or numbers

- Copies a triangle and other geometric shapes
- Knows about things used every day , like money and food

Movement/Physical Development

- Stands on one foot for 10 seconds or longer
- Hops, may be able to skip
- Can do a somersault
- Uses a fork and a spoon and sometimes a table knife
- Can use the toilet on their own
- Swings and climbs

Act early by talking to your child's doctor if your child:

- Doesn't show a wide range of emotions
- Shows extreme behavior (Usually fearful, aggressive, shy or sad)
- Unusually withdrawn and not active
- Is easily distracted, has trouble focusing on one activity for more than 5 minutes
- Doesn't respond to people, or responds only superficially
- Can't tell what's real and what's make-believe
- Doesn't play a variety of games and activities or experiences
- Can't give first and last name
- Doesn't use plurals or past tense properly
- Doesn't talk about daily activities or experiences
- Doesn't draw pictures
- Can't brush teeth, wash and dry hands, or get undressed without help
- Loses skills they once had

If your concerned act early by telling your child's doctor or nurse if you notice any of these signs of being a possible developmental delay for their age.

