

Important Milestones: Your Baby at Nine Months

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 nine months 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

- May be afraid of strangers
- May be clingy with familiar adults
- Has favorite toys

Language/Communication

- Understands "no"
- Makes a lot of different sounds like "mamamama" and "bababababa"
- Copies sounds and gestures of others
- Uses fingers to point at things

Cognitive (learning, thinking, problem-solving)

- Watches the path of something as it falls
- Looks for things he sees you hide
- Plays peek-a-boo
- Puts things in her mouth
- Moves things smoothly from one hand to the other
- Picks up things like cereal o's between thumb and index finger

Movement/Physical Development

- Stands, holding on
- Can get into sitting position

- Sits without support
- Pulls to stand
- Crawls

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

- Doesn't bear weight on legs with support
- Doesn't sit with help
- Doesn't babble ("mama", "baba", "dada")
- Doesn't play any games involving back-and-forth play
- Doesn't respond to own name
- Doesn't seem to recognize familiar people
- Doesn't look where you point
- Doesn't transfer toys from one hand to the other

Tell your child's doctor or nurse if you notice any of these signs of possible developmental delay for this age.