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Infant and Newborn Development

When will my baby take his first step or say her first word? During their first year, babies start to develop skills they will use for the rest of their lives. The normal growth of babies can be broken down into the following areas:

- Gross motor - controlling the head, sitting, crawling, maybe even starting to walk
- Fine motor - holding a spoon, picking up a piece of cereal between thumb and finger
- Sensory - seeing, hearing, tasting, touching and smelling
- Language - starting to make sounds, learning some words, understanding what people say
- Social - the ability to play with family members and other children

Babies do not develop at the same rate. There is a wide range of what is considered "normal." Your baby may be ahead in some areas and slightly behind in others. If you are worried about possible delays, talk to your baby's health care provider.

Start Here

- CDC's Developmental Milestones [<https://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/actearly/milestones/>] (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention)
Also in Spanish [<https://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/Spanish/actearly/milestones/index.html>]
- Your Child's Development: 1 Month [<https://kidshealth.org/en/parents/development-1mo.html>] (Nemours Foundation)
- Your Child's Development: 2 Months [<https://kidshealth.org/en/parents/development-2mos.html>] (Nemours Foundation)
- Your Child's Development: 3-5 Days [<https://kidshealth.org/en/parents/development-3to5d.html>] (Nemours Foundation)
- Your Child's Development: 6 Months [<https://kidshealth.org/en/parents/development-6mos.html>] (Nemours Foundation)
- Your Child's Development: 9 Months [<https://kidshealth.org/en/parents/development-9mos.html>] (Nemours Foundation)
Also in Spanish [<https://kidshealth.org/es/parents/development-9mos.html>]
- Your Child's Development: Newborn [<https://kidshealth.org/en/parents/development-newborn.html>] (Nemours Foundation)

Diagnosis and Tests

- Developmental and Behavioral Screening Tests [<https://medlineplus.gov/lab-tests/developmental-and-behavioral-screening-tests/>]  (National Library of Medicine)
Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/pruebas-de-laboratorio/pruebas-de-evaluacion-del-desarrollo-y-el-comportamiento/>]
- Developmental Monitoring and Screening
[https://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/actearly/pdf/parents_pdfs/DevelopmentalScreening.pdf]
(Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) - PDF - In English and Spanish

Treatments and Therapies

- Physical Therapy (For Parents) [<https://kidshealth.org/en/parents/phys-therapy.html>] (Nemours Foundation)
Also in Spanish [<https://kidshealth.org/es/parents/phys-therapy.html>]
- Speech-Language Therapy (For Parents) [<https://kidshealth.org/en/parents/speech-therapy.html>] (Nemours Foundation)
Also in Spanish [<https://kidshealth.org/es/parents/speech-therapy.html>]

Related Issues

- Developmental Milestones of Early Literacy [<https://www.healthychildren.org/English/ages-stages/baby/Pages/Developmental-Milestones-of-Early-Literacy.aspx>] (American Academy of Pediatrics)
Also in Spanish [<https://www.healthychildren.org/spanish/ages-stages/baby/paginas/developmental-milestones-of-early-literacy.aspx>]
- Overview of Early Intervention [<https://www.parentcenterhub.org/ei-overview/>] (Center for Parent Information and Resources)
- Separation Anxiety [<https://kidshealth.org/en/parents/sep-anxiety.html>] (Nemours Foundation)
Also in Spanish [<https://kidshealth.org/es/parents/separation-anxiety.html>]
- Stopping the Bottle [<https://kidshealth.org/en/parents/no-bottles.html>] (Nemours Foundation)
Also in Spanish [<https://kidshealth.org/es/parents/no-bottles.html>]
- Tummy Time for a Healthy Baby [<https://safetosleep.nichd.nih.gov/reduce-risk/tummy-time>]
 (Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development)
Also in Spanish [<https://espanol.nichd.nih.gov/actividades-proyectos/sts/tiempo-boca-abajo>]
- What Is a Developmental-Behavioral Pediatrician? [<https://www.healthychildren.org/English/family-life/health-management/pediatric-specialists/pages/What-is-a-Developmental-Behavioral-Pediatrician.aspx>]
(American Academy of Pediatrics)
Also in Spanish [<https://www.healthychildren.org/spanish/family-life/health-management/pediatric-specialists/paginas/what-is-a-development-behavioral-pediatrician.aspx>]
- Your child needs vaccines as they grow! [<https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/imz-schedules/child-easyread.html>]
(Centers for Disease Control and Prevention)
Also in Spanish [<https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/imz-schedules/adolescent-easyread-es.html>]

Specifics

- Emotional and Social Development: 4 to 7 Months [<https://www.healthychildren.org/English/ages-stages/baby/pages/Emotional-and-Social-Development-4-7-Months.aspx>] (American Academy of Pediatrics)
- Emotional and Social Development: 8 to 12 Months [<https://www.healthychildren.org/English/ages-stages/baby/pages/Emotional-and-Social-Development-8-12-Months.aspx>] (American Academy of Pediatrics)
- Emotional and Social Development: Birth to 3 Months [<https://www.healthychildren.org/English/ages-stages/baby/pages/Emotional-and-Social-Development-Birth-to-3-Months.aspx>]
(American Academy of Pediatrics)
Also in Spanish [<https://www.healthychildren.org/spanish/ages-stages/baby/paginas/emotional-and-social-development-birth-to-3-months.aspx>]
- Speech and Language Developmental Milestones [<https://www.nidcd.nih.gov/health/speech-and-language>]
 (National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders)
Also in Spanish [<https://www.nidcd.nih.gov/es/espanol/etapas-del-desarrollo-del-habla-y-el-lenguaje>]

Journal Articles

References and abstracts from MEDLINE/PubMed (National Library of Medicine)

- Article: Early Neurodevelopment of Extremely Preterm Infants Administered Autologous Cord Blood Cell... [<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/40608334>]
- Article: Twelve-month-old infants rationally attribute goals to inanimate objects. [<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/40602083>]
- Article: School age outcomes of very premature infants randomized to cord milking... [<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/40593324>]
- Infant and Newborn Development -- see more articles [<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/?term=%22Infant+Behavior%22%5Bmajr%3Anoexp%5D+AND+infant+%5Bmh%5D+OR+%22Child+Development%22%5Bmajr%3Anoexp%5D+AND+infant+%5Bmh%5D+AND+humans%5Bmh%5D+AND+english%5Bla%5D+AND+%22last+1+Year%22%5Bdat%5D+AND+%28patient+education+handout%5Bpt%5D+OR+guideline%5Bpt%5D+OR+clinical+trial%5Bpt%5D%29++NOT+%28letter%5Bpt%5D+OR+case+reports%5Bpt%5D+OR+editorial%5Bpt%5D+OR+comment%5Bpt%5D%29+AND+free+full+text%5Bsb%5D+>]

Reference Desk

- Growth Charts (For Parents) [<https://kidshealth.org/en/parents/growth-charts.html>] (Nemours Foundation)
Also in Spanish [<https://kidshealth.org/es/parents/growth-charts.html>]

Find an Expert

- Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development [<https://www.nichd.nih.gov/>] 
Also in Spanish [<https://espanol.nichd.nih.gov/>]
- KidsHealth [<https://kidshealth.org/>] (Nemours Foundation)

Patient Handouts

- Developmental milestones record - 12 months [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/002005.htm>] (Medical Encyclopedia)
Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/ency/article/002005.htm>]
- Developmental Monitoring and Screening
[https://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/actearly/pdf/parents_pdfs/DevelopmentalScreening.pdf]
(Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) - PDF - In English and Spanish
- Infant - newborn development [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/002004.htm>] (Medical Encyclopedia)
Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/ency/article/002004.htm>]
- Normal growth and development [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/002456.htm>] (Medical Encyclopedia)
Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/ency/article/002456.htm>]



MEDICAL ENCYCLOPEDIA

Developmental milestones record - 12 months [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/002005.htm>]

Developmental milestones record - 2 months [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/002006.htm>]

Developmental milestones record - 4 months [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/002007.htm>]

Developmental milestones record - 6 months [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/002008.htm>]

Developmental milestones record - 9 months [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/002009.htm>]

Infant - newborn development [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/002004.htm>]

Normal growth and development [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/002456.htm>]

Separation anxiety in children [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/001542.htm>]

Related Health Topics

Child Development [<https://medlineplus.gov/childdevelopment.html>]

National Institutes of Health

The primary NIH organization for research on *Infant and Newborn Development* is the Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development [<https://www.nichd.nih.gov/Pages/index.aspx>]

Other Languages

Find health information in languages other than English

[<https://medlineplus.gov/languages/infantandnewborndevelopment.html>] on *Infant and Newborn Development*

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