

Your Baby at 9 Months



Child's Name _____

Child's Age _____

Today's Date _____

How your child plays, learns, speaks, acts, and moves offers important clues about your child's development. Developmental milestones are things most children can do by a certain age.

Check the milestones your child has reached by the end of 9 months. Take this with you and talk with your child's doctor at every visit about the milestones your child has reached and what to expect next.

What Most Babies Do at this Age:

Social/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, and talk with someone in your community who is familiar with services for young children in your area, such as your state's public early intervention program. For more information, go to www.cdc.gov/concerned or call 1-800-CDC-INFO (1-800-232-4636).

The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends that children be screened for general development at the 9-month visit. Ask your child's doctor about your child's developmental screening.

Adapted from CARING FOR YOUR BABY AND YOUNG CHILD: BIRTH TO AGE 5, Fifth Edition, edited by Steven Shelov and Tanya Remer Altmann © 1991, 1993, 1998, 2004, 2009 by the American Academy of Pediatrics and BRIGHT FUTURES: GUIDELINES FOR HEALTH SUPERVISION OF INFANTS, CHILDREN, AND ADOLESCENTS, Third Edition, edited by Joseph Hagan, Jr., Judith S. Shaw, and Paula M. Duncan, 2008, Elk Grove Village, IL: American Academy of Pediatrics. This milestone checklist is not a substitute for a standardized, validated developmental screening tool.

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Help Your Baby Learn and Grow



You can help your baby learn and grow. Talk, read, sing, and play together every day. Below are some activities to enjoy with your 9-month-old baby today.

What You Can Do for Your 9-Month-Old:

- Pay attention to the way he reacts to new situations and people; try to continue to do things that make your baby happy and comfortable.
- As she moves around more, stay close so she knows that you are near.
- Continue with routines; they are especially important now.
- Play games with “my turn, your turn.”
- Say what you think your baby is feeling. For example, say, “You are so sad, let’s see if we can make you feel better.”
- Describe what your baby is looking at; for example, “red, round ball.”
- Talk about what your baby wants when he points at something.
- Copy your baby’s sounds and words.
- Ask for behaviors that you want. For example, instead of saying “don’t stand,” say “time to sit.”
- Teach cause-and-effect by rolling balls back and forth, pushing toy cars and trucks, and putting blocks in and out of a container.
- Play peek-a-boo and hide-and-seek.
- Read and talk to your baby.
- Provide lots of room for your baby to move and explore in a safe area.
- Put your baby close to things that she can pull up on safely.

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