## Child Development Milestones – 6 months



The majority of children will achieve these development milestones by the time they turn 6 months. All children develop at different rates. Some children are slower than others (developmentally delayed) but catch up with time. Other children, however, may have an underlying problem that causes their development to be delayed, and they may not catch up.

It is important for these children to get as much treatment (early intervention) as possible. So if you are concerned about any aspect of your child's development, see your child health nurse or doctor for help as soon as you can. If in doubt, it is better to have your concerns checked than to 'wait and see'.



✓	An average child can	×	Signs of possible problems include
	Gross motor		
	Lift head and chest off the ground when lying on their tummy		Cannot lift head and shoulders when lying on their tummy
	Roll over side to side		Cannot roll over
	Sit with support and a straight back		Floppy back when held in sitting
	Bear weight on legs, stand with support		Any differences between right and left sides of body (in strength, movement or muscle tone)
	Fine motor		
	Reach for objects with each arm and hand		Obvious difference between se of right and left arms
	Hold objects with whole hand		
	Transfer object from hand to hand		Persistent fisting o hands (cannot release objects)
	Hold an object in each hand		
	Talking and understanding		
	Make four or more distinct sounds (vowels and consonants)		Not much variety in sounds being made
	Laugh in response to something		Limited social use of sound (not responsive, no turn-taking, no laughter)
	Search for sound by turning head		Not interested in sound or able to turn to sound with head and eyes
	Change behavior when listening to sound and human conversation		Doesn't change behavior in response to sound
	Social		
	Enjoy and respond to play		Shows no preference to mother or other people
	Anticipate touch or being lifted		Doesn't look at people directly in the eye
	Turn head to people		No responsive smiling or laughing
	Drink from a cup (with adult holding it)		Negative or over-reaction to touch
	Resist toys being taken away		
	Intellectual		
	Resist objects taken out of hands		
	Examine what is in hand		Not interested in what is in hand
	Show clear pleasure with new objects and experiences		Not interested in people

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