



Child Development Milestones – 6 months

The majority of children will achieve these 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 delayed development, 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 without delay. 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...
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Gross motor

<input type="checkbox"/> Lift head and chest off the ground when lying on their tummy	<input type="checkbox"/> Cannot lift head and shoulders when lying on their tummy
<input type="checkbox"/> Roll over side to side	<input type="checkbox"/> Cannot roll over
<input type="checkbox"/> Sit with support and a straight back	<input type="checkbox"/> Floppy back when held in sitting
<input type="checkbox"/> Bear weight on legs, stand with support	<input type="checkbox"/> Any differences between right and left sides of body (in strength, movement or muscle tone)

Fine motor

<input type="checkbox"/> Reach for objects with each arm and hand	<input type="checkbox"/> Obvious difference between use of right and left arms
<input type="checkbox"/> Hold objects with whole hand	
<input type="checkbox"/> Transfer object from hand to hand	<input type="checkbox"/> Persistent fisting of hands (cannot release objects)
<input type="checkbox"/> Hold an object in each hand	

Talking and understanding

<input type="checkbox"/> Make four or more distinct sounds (vowels and consonants)	<input type="checkbox"/> Not much variety in sounds being made
<input type="checkbox"/> Laugh in response to something	<input type="checkbox"/> Limited social use of sound (not responsive, no turn-taking, no laughter)
<input type="checkbox"/> Search for sound by turning head	<input type="checkbox"/> Not interested in sound or able to turn to sound with head and eyes
<input type="checkbox"/> Change behaviour when listening to sound and human conversation	<input type="checkbox"/> Doesn't change behaviour in response to sound

Social

<input type="checkbox"/> Enjoy and respond to play	<input type="checkbox"/> Shows no preference to mother or other people
<input type="checkbox"/> Anticipate touch or being lifted	<input type="checkbox"/> Doesn't look at people directly in the eye
<input type="checkbox"/> Turn head to people	<input type="checkbox"/> No responsive smiling or laughing
<input type="checkbox"/> Drink from a cup (with adult holding it)	<input type="checkbox"/> Negative or over-reaction to touch
<input type="checkbox"/> Resist toys being taken away	

Intellectual

<input type="checkbox"/> Resist objects taken out of hands	
<input type="checkbox"/> Examine what is in hand	<input type="checkbox"/> Not interested in what is in hand
<input type="checkbox"/> Show clear pleasure with new objects and experiences	<input type="checkbox"/> Not interested in people

If you have any concerns about your child's development, see your child health nurse or GP.

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