

At 1½ Years

Act Early If Your Child

- Doesn't point to show things to others
- Can't walk
- Doesn't know what familiar things are for
- Doesn't copy others
- Doesn't gain new words
- Doesn't have at least 6 words
- Doesn't notice or mind when a caregiver leaves or returns
- Loses skills he once had



At 2 Years

Act Early If Your Child

- Doesn't use 2-word phrases ("drink milk," "go out")
- Doesn't know what to do with common things, like a brush, phone, fork, spoon
- Doesn't copy actions and words
- Doesn't follow simple instructions
- Doesn't walk steadily
- Loses skills she once had



At 3 Years

Act Early If Your Child

- Falls down a lot or has trouble with stairs
- Doesn't want to play with toys or other children
- Drools or has very unclear speech
- Doesn't make eye contact
- Can't work simple toys (peg boards, puzzles, turn handles)
- Loses skills he once had
- Doesn't speak in sentences
- Doesn't understand simple instructions
- Doesn't play pretend or make-believe



At 4 Years

Act Early If Your Child

- Can't jump in place
- Doesn't understand "same" and "different"
- Has trouble scribbling
- Doesn't use "me" and "you" correctly
- Shows no interest in interactive games or make-believe
- Speaks unclearly
- Loses skills she once had
- Ignores other children or doesn't respond to people outside the family
- Resists dressing, sleeping and using the toilet
- Can't retell a favorite story
- Doesn't follow 3-part commands



At 5 Years

Act Early If Your Child

- Doesn't show a wide range of emotions
- Doesn't play a variety of games and activities
- Shows extreme behavior (unusually fearful, aggressive, shy or sad)
- Can't give first and last name
- Doesn't use plurals or past tense correctly
- Doesn't talk about daily activities or experiences
- Is unusually withdrawn and not active
- Doesn't draw pictures
- Is easily distracted, has trouble focusing on one activity for more than 5 minutes
- Can't brush teeth, wash and dry hands, or get undressed without help
- Doesn't respond to people, or only a little
- Loses skills he once had
- Can't tell what's real and what's make-believe



Act Early Warning Signs



What To Watch For

How children play, learn, speak and act tells you if they're growing as expected. While kids do different things at different times, there are certain things most can do by a certain age.

If you have any concerns about your child, talk to the doctor or get help from someone in your community who knows about services for young children.

Learn More
bit.ly/earlysigns
1-800-755-4769



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At 2 Months

Act Early If Your Child

- Doesn't respond to loud sounds
- Doesn't watch things as they move
- Doesn't smile at people
- Doesn't bring hands to mouth
- Can't hold head up when pushing up while on tummy



At 4 Months

Act Early If Your Child

- Doesn't watch things as they move
- Doesn't smile at people
- Can't hold head steady
- Doesn't coo or make sounds
- Doesn't bring things to mouth
- Doesn't push down with legs when feet are placed on a hard surface
- Has trouble moving one or both eyes in all directions



At 6 Months

Act Early If Your Child

- Doesn't try to get things that are in reach
- Shows no affection for caregivers
- Doesn't respond to sounds around her
- Has difficulty getting things to mouth
- Doesn't make vowel sounds ("ah," "eh," "oh")
- Doesn't roll over in either direction
- Doesn't laugh or make squealing sounds
- Seems very stiff with tight muscles
- Seems very floppy, like a rag doll



At 9 Months

Act Early If Your Child

- Doesn't bear weight on legs with support
- Doesn't sit with help
- Doesn't babble
- Doesn't play 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



At 1 Year

Act Early If Your Child

- Doesn't crawl
- Can't stand when supported
- Doesn't search for things that he sees you hide
- Doesn't say single words like "mama" or "dada"
- Doesn't learn gestures like waving or shaking head
- Doesn't point to things
- Loses skills he once had

