

Developmental milestones: fine motor skills and visual motor skills

	Fine-motor and visual-motor skills	Additional skills developing within a greater range
1 months	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Eyes can follow (track) an object towards the middle (midline) or starting at midline to either side. Tightly grasp objects placed in child's hands. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1–3 months: Infant attempts to swipe or hit objects.
2 months	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Eyes can follow (track) an object to right and left sides, past the midline. Can briefly hold small toys placed in child's hands. May begin to notice their own hands. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2-6 months: Infant inspects own hands and reaches for but may not actually touch objects.
3 months	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Eyes can follow objects in a circular motion. Hands are more relaxed. Infant is able to look at an object and will attempt to reach for that object ("visually directed reaching"). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3-7 months: Child is able to hold a small object in each hand.
4-5 months	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Touches fingers together Begins reaching with both hands at the same time. Able to reach and grasp a small toy using both hands. Touches or bangs an object on a table or hard surface. 	
6 months	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reaches for an object with right or left hand. Shakes a rattle. Uses a raking grasp (all fingers at the same time) to pick up small objects. 	
7 months	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Transfers a small object from one hand to the other. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7-8 months: Child uses an inferior pincer grasp (pads of thumb and index finger) to pick up small objects like Cheerios.
8 months	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Able to pull an item that is placed vertically in Playdoh. Able to hold an object with the pad of the thumb facing the pad of the index finger. Can poke objects with index finger. 	
9 months	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Uses thumb and index finger (pincer grasp) to pick up small objects like Cheerios. Bangs two objects together (i.e. two blocks). Claps hands. 	
10 months	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pull out three items that are placed vertically in Playdoh. Releases an object into an adult's hand upon request. 	

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11 months	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Places small objects into a medium or large container. Can place multiple medium-sized objects (i.e. blocks) into a container. 	
12-14 months	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Able to let go of an object (i.e. throw a ball) and picking it up again. Can turn the cover or single thick pages of a book. Removes or dumps out objects from a container. Is able to point finger at objects. Can place a simple shape (i.e. circle or square) into a puzzle board. Can place small objects into a small container. Begins to make small marks on a paper. 	
15-17 months	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Can build a two-block tower. Scribbles spontaneously (without demonstration). 	
18-23 months	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Can build a four-to six-block tower. Can turn a few thick pages in a book. Can push, pull or dump things out. 	
24-29 months	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Imitates drawing a vertical line. Is able to remove a screw/twist-on lid to a container. Child can turn one page at a time when looking at a book. Can build an eight-block tower. Imitates horizontal strokes on paper. Can string four large beads onto a piece of yarn. 	
30-36 months	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Can build a 10-block tower. Copies a circle on paper. Snips paper with child-wwsafe scissors. 	
36 months	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Can cut a paper in half with child-safe scissors. 	

Some of these skills may require instruction and practice with an adult caregiver.
Consult the child's pediatrician if the child is not meeting these milestones.

Adapted from the Peabody Developmental Motor Scales- 2nd edition and Occupational Therapy for Children- 3rd edition.