



Child Development Milestones – 9 months

The majority of children will achieve these milestones by the time they turn 9 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...
---------------------------	---

Gross motor

<input type="checkbox"/> Sit without support	<input type="checkbox"/> Can't sit alone
<input type="checkbox"/> Get into sitting position	
<input type="checkbox"/> Crawl, or make crawling attempts	<input type="checkbox"/> No crawling motion
<input type="checkbox"/> Begin to stand holding on	<input type="checkbox"/> Unable to hold bodyweight or push up through legs in standing position
	<input type="checkbox"/> Any differences between right and left sides of body (in strength, movement or muscle tone)

Fine motor

<input type="checkbox"/> Point with index finger	<input type="checkbox"/> Unable to use index finger in isolation (i.e. to poke or point)
<input type="checkbox"/> Hold objects using thumb and fingers	
<input type="checkbox"/> Bang objects together (one in each hand)	

Talking and understanding

<input type="checkbox"/> Babble (vowels and consonants together)	<input type="checkbox"/> Limited variety of sound
<input type="checkbox"/> Put two syllables together into babble words	<input type="checkbox"/> Limited or no babble
<input type="checkbox"/> Babble phrases of 3-4 syllables	
<input type="checkbox"/> Perhaps say 'mama' or 'dada'	
<input type="checkbox"/> Imitate speech sounds	<input type="checkbox"/> No attempts to imitate sound
<input type="checkbox"/> Respond to own name	<input type="checkbox"/> Doesn't seem to know own name
<input type="checkbox"/> Show interest in listening to people talking to each other	
<input type="checkbox"/> Listen to soft sounds	

Social

<input type="checkbox"/> Display fear or unease around strangers	<input type="checkbox"/> Does not behave differently between familiar people and strangers
<input type="checkbox"/> Feed self (e.g. a biscuit)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Enjoy playing games with people, like peek-a-boo	<input type="checkbox"/> No interest in playing with people (or leave out)
<input type="checkbox"/> Try to get toys out of reach	
<input type="checkbox"/> Play with cup or spoon	
<input type="checkbox"/> React to self in mirror	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Prefers to play alone





Child Development Milestones – 9 months

✓ An average child can...	✓ Signs of possible problems include...
<i>Intellectual</i>	
<input type="checkbox"/> Look at and feel objects in their hands	
<input type="checkbox"/> Put objects down and pick them up	
<input type="checkbox"/> Enjoy exploring and moving around	
<input type="checkbox"/> Search for objects after they have fallen	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Cannot tell the difference between new experiences and familiar ones
	<input type="checkbox"/> No difference in responses to strangers and familiar people

If you have any concerns about your child's development, see your child health nurse or GP.
 Copyright © 2003 Child Development Network. Reproduced with permission.

