



Early communication sets the stage for talking, learning, and later success in life. What you do and say now can make all the difference in your baby's development. Especially because your baby's brain is developing at an amazing rate.

Our Social Communication Milestones cover 5 developmental domains—Play, Language, Social Interaction, Emotional Regulation, and Self-Directed Learning—with two developmental threads in each domain. Here you will find a list of 10 milestones every 2 months. Follow the threads to find out what's in store for your baby from 7 to 24 months and celebrate as your baby reaches each new milestone.

For more detail on our [Social Communication Milestones](#), click on your child's age to download and print the milestones every 2 months with lots of examples.

Learn how you can join our [Social Communication Growth Charts](#)—a powerful new online tool to help parents encourage the milestones that matter most, with videos to explore and questions to chart your child's growth.



7-8 MONTHS

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|------------------------|--------------------------------|---|
| Language | Gestures & Meanings | I can use my hands to take things and move my body toward what interests me. |
| | Sounds & Words | I can make different noises with my mouth and different sounds. |
| Play | Using Actions with Objects | I can grasp, hold, bang, mouth, and let go of objects to explore how they work. |
| | Social Sharing with Objects | I am interested in exploring objects with you and noticing your reactions. |
| Social Interaction | Social Attention | I notice you, look at you often, and can easily shift my attention to you when you talk or gesture. |
| | Intentional Communication | I am learning you are the agent of change. |
| Emotional Regulation | Sharing & Managing Emotions | I can smile, laugh, and use my voice when I'm happy. |
| | Regulating Challenging Moments | I can use different actions and sounds, in addition to crying, when I'm upset. |
| Self-Directed Learning | Understanding Messages | I can use different actions and sounds that show I anticipate what will happen next. |
| | Creating New Ideas | I am interested in learning what I can do with objects. |

9-10 MONTHS

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|------------------------|--------------------------------|---|
| Language | Gestures & Meanings | I can use early gestures like giving and reaching to get you to do something. |
| | Sounds & Words | I can use my voice to make different sounds to let you know how I feel. |
| Play | Using Actions with Objects | I can explore objects and repeat different actions with objects. |
| | Social Sharing with Objects | I enjoy and anticipate your actions. |
| Social Interaction | Social Attention | I notice you and what you're looking at. |
| | Intentional Communication | I can let you know what I want and what I don't want. |
| Emotional Regulation | Sharing & Managing Emotions | I can share happy moments when I interact with you. |
| | Regulating Challenging Moments | I can share sad or frustrated feelings to get you to comfort me. |
| Self-Directed Learning | Understanding Messages | I can guess what you're about to do and use "hints" around me to understand your message. |
| | Creating New Ideas | I notice you and listen to your voice to guide my actions. |

11-12 MONTHS

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|------------------------|--------------------------------|---|
| Language | Gestures & Meanings | I can use gestures like showing and pointing to get you to notice what I am interested in. |
| | Sounds & Words | I can use speech sounds together as if I am "talking" to you. |
| Play | Using Actions with Objects | I can use functional actions with several objects. |
| | Social Sharing with Objects | I enjoy taking turns exchanging objects with you. |
| Social Interaction | Social Attention | I am eager to interact with you and help keep the interaction going. |
| | Intentional Communication | I can get you to notice me and things I'm interested in. |
| Emotional Regulation | Sharing & Managing Emotions | I can share enjoyment and flow with transitions between activities. |
| | Regulating Challenging Moments | I can hang in there during a necessary activity and do things to make myself feel better. |
| Self-Directed Learning | Understanding Messages | I can follow simple directions like "come here" or "give it to me" when you ask me with gestures. |
| | Creating New Ideas | I watch you and try to do something with you or take on a job I can do with a little help. |

13-14 MONTHS

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|------------------------|--------------------------------|--|
| Language | Gestures & Meanings | I can learn new gestures like clapping and blowing a kiss by watching and imitating you. |
| | Sounds & Words | I can use a few protowords or early forms of words in familiar situations. |
| Play | Using Actions with Objects | I can use functional actions with you or a stuffed animal. |
| | Social Sharing with Objects | I can learn new actions with objects by watching and imitating you. |
| Social Interaction | Social Attention | I can watch you and imitate what you do and say. |
| | Intentional Communication | I can communicate to share my enjoyment and interests with you. |
| Emotional Regulation | Sharing & Managing Emotions | I can seek out situations that are fun, invite you to join me, and insist on being part of the action. |
| | Regulating Challenging Moments | I can make it clear to you that I do not "want" something or do not want "to do" something. |
| Self-Directed Learning | Understanding Messages | I can listen to you and try to figure out your message. |
| | Creating New Ideas | I can communicate my preference when you offer several choices or let you know I want something else. |



15-16 MONTHS

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|------------------------|--------------------------------|--|
| Language | Gestures & Meanings | I can use symbolic gestures to share ideas with you. |
| | Sounds & Words | I can use at least 5 different words that mean something to both of us. |
| Play | Using Actions with Objects | I can use pretend actions with objects that have imagined things from everyday activities. |
| | Social Sharing with Objects | I can use objects in a silly, playful way and in a way that helps you get things done. |
| Social Interaction | Social Attention | I can communicate to get your attention and check in with you regularly. |
| | Intentional Communication | I try to figure out what you mean and keep the interaction going. |
| Emotional Regulation | Sharing & Managing Emotions | I can stay active and engaged with you in fun situations and in necessary activities. |
| | Regulating Challenging Moments | I can tolerate you helping me stick with a task, even when I am upset. |
| Self-Directed Learning | Understanding Messages | I can respond when you talk to me and share my ideas with you. |
| | Creating New Ideas | I can be productive doing my job and stand my ground with you. |

17-18 MONTHS

| | | |
|------------------------|--------------------------------|---|
| Language | Gestures & Meanings | I can look at you and use a gesture and word together to tell you what I am thinking. |
| | Sounds & Words | I can use at least 10 different words that mean something to both of us. |
| Play | Using Actions with Objects | I can pretend using new actions that you show me or tell me to do. |
| | Social Sharing with Objects | I can use several objects together to build or create something with you. |
| Social Interaction | Social Attention | I can hang in and do something with you and monitor what you're paying attention to. |
| | Intentional Communication | I try to help you know what I mean by adding information to my message. |
| Emotional Regulation | Sharing & Managing Emotions | I can get motivated or settle down with the help of your words and stay available for learning. |
| | Regulating Challenging Moments | I can shift attention from something I want to do and engage in a different activity with you. |
| Self-Directed Learning | Understanding Messages | I can understand words without gestures in familiar situations. |
| | Creating New Ideas | I notice opportunities for interaction and learning and can get myself involved. |

19-20 MONTHS

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|------------------------|--------------------------------|--|
| Language | Gestures & Meanings | I can use my words to share something interesting and to protest something I don't want. |
| | Sounds & Words | I can use at least 20 words to name people, animals, body parts, objects, actions, and places. |
| Play | Using Actions with Objects | I can pretend using actions with imagined things from less familiar activities. |
| | Social Sharing with Objects | I can combine different types of materials to create a play scenario with you. |
| Social Interaction | Social Attention | I am eager to share my interests and ideas with you. |
| | Intentional Communication | I can persist in communicating my message to you. |
| Emotional Regulation | Sharing & Managing Emotions | I can share enjoyment with my words and gestures and stay engaged in the activity with you. |
| | Regulating Challenging Moments | I can say or do something that helps me manage my emotions and stay focused in a necessary activity. |
| Self-Directed Learning | Understanding Messages | I can follow simple directions when you ask me to do something. |
| | Creating New Ideas | I can recognize a problem or challenge and try to figure out what to do. |

21-22 MONTHS

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|------------------------|--------------------------------|--|
| Language | Gestures & Meanings | I can learn many new words every week and use them to share ideas with you. |
| | Sounds & Words | I can use at least 50 words and combine two words to convey different meanings. |
| Play | Using Actions with Objects | I can combine two different pretend actions with imagined things in a play scenario. |
| | Social Sharing with Objects | I can tell you about my play scenario and invite you to play with me. |
| Social Interaction | Social Attention | I can take a few turns sharing my ideas and listening to your ideas. |
| | Intentional Communication | I can ask you about things that I don't know. |
| Emotional Regulation | Sharing & Managing Emotions | I can use my words to ask you to help me get motivated or settle down. |
| | Regulating Challenging Moments | My very upset moments are getting briefer and I can flow with unpleasant or unexpected situations. |
| Self-Directed Learning | Understanding Messages | I can observe and listen to you to know what I am supposed to do and go along with your plan. |
| | Creating New Ideas | I can come up a creative idea and let you know my plan. |

23-24 MONTHS

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|------------------------|--------------------------------|---|
| Language | Gestures & Meanings | I can use phrases that describe things and request new information. |
| | Sounds & Words | I can use at least 100 words in phrases that include names, actions, and descriptions. |
| Play | Using Actions with Objects | I can combine several different pretend actions in a logical sequence. |
| | Social Sharing with Objects | I can begin to take on a make-believe role in a pretend play scenario with you. |
| Social Interaction | Social Attention | I can talk with you about a topic I'm interested in like we're having a conversation. |
| | Intentional Communication | I can let you know how I feel and negotiate when things don't go my way. |
| Emotional Regulation | Sharing & Managing Emotions | I can use my words to share moments of success with you. |
| | Regulating Challenging Moments | I can calm myself down, come back to you, and communicate what I want or need. |
| Self-Directed Learning | Understanding Messages | I can create opportunities to learn about things that interest me in everyday situations. |
| | Creating New Ideas | I can try out new things and seek out new opportunities for learning. |