The journey of your child’s early years includes many developmental milestones for how he or she plays, learns, speaks, and acts.

Look inside to learn what to look for in your child. Talk with your child’s doctor about these milestones.

Not reaching these milestones, or reaching them much later than other children, could be a sign of a developmental delay.

For more information about your child’s development and what to do if you have a concern:

www.ActEarly.wisc.edu

Visit this site to learn more about resources in your area and to get more information about milestones.

Your child’s early development is a journey. Use this map of milestones to know what to look for along the way.

For parents of children from birth to 4 years

DON’T WAIT.
Acting early can make a real difference!

You KNOW YOUR CHILD BEST.
If you are concerned about your child’s development, talk to your child’s doctor.

If you or the doctor are still concerned, call Wisconsin First Step at 1-800-642-7837 to learn how to get the help your child might need.

1-800-642-7837

Call this statewide 24-hour information and referral hotline to get help finding resources in your area.

Department of Health and Human Services
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Learn the Signs. Act Early.
Your Child’s Early Development is a Journey

Check off the milestones your child has reached and share your child’s progress with the doctor at every visit.

6 MONTHS
- Turns his head when you call his name
- Smiles back at you
- Responds to sound by making sounds
- Sits without support for a short time
- Likes social play (games like peek-a-boo)
- Uses simple gestures such as shaking head for “no” or waving “bye-bye”
- Pulls up to stand

12 MONTHS (1 YEAR)
- Copies you during play (like clapping when you clap)
- Responds when told “no”
- Says “mama” and “dada”

18 MONTHS (1½ YEARS)
- Looks at something when you point to it and say “look!”
- Uses several single words to get what she wants
- Walks without help
- Plays pretend (like talking on a toy phone)
- Points to interesting things

2 YEARS
- Follows simple instructions
- Kicks a ball
- Points to something (like a toy or picture) when you name it
- Uses 2- to 4-word phrases
- Shows more interest in other children

3 YEARS
- Shows affection for playmates
- Uses 4- to 5-word sentences
-Copies adults and playmates (like running when other children run)
- Climbs well
- Plays make-believe with dolls, animals, and people (like feeding a teddy bear)

4 YEARS
- Follows 3-step commands (like “get dressed, comb your hair, and wash your face”)
- Hops and can stand on one foot for up to five seconds
- Uses 5- to 6-word sentences
- Shares and takes turns with other children
- Draws circles and squares

These are just a few of many important milestones to look for. For more complete checklists by age visit www.ActEarly.wisc.edu or call 1-800-CDC-INFO.