



Child Development Milestones – 2 years

The majority of children will achieve these milestones by the time they turn 2 years. 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...
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Gross motor

<input type="checkbox"/> Run	<input type="checkbox"/> Unable to run
<input type="checkbox"/> Throw a ball	<input type="checkbox"/> Unable to throw (depending on experience)
<input type="checkbox"/> Walk up and down steps, holding on	<input type="checkbox"/> Unable to use stairs
<input type="checkbox"/> Jump two feet together	<input type="checkbox"/> Unable to jump
	<input type="checkbox"/> Poor quality gait (walking pattern) – e.g. falling over, clumsy

Fine motor

<input type="checkbox"/> Build a tower of 4-8 blocks	<input type="checkbox"/> Clumsy with stacking blocks
<input type="checkbox"/> Copy drawing of a vertical line	<input type="checkbox"/> Unable to copy drawing a vertical line
<input type="checkbox"/> Scribble in circles with crayon/pencil	<input type="checkbox"/> Not interested in using a pencil; no scribbling
<input type="checkbox"/> Help with dressing and undressing	
<input type="checkbox"/> Line three blocks up to make a train	

Talking and understanding

<input type="checkbox"/> Say 20-50 clear words	<input type="checkbox"/> Limited vocabulary (less than 10 words)
<input type="checkbox"/> Say clear, two-word sentences	<input type="checkbox"/> No combination of words into sentences
<input type="checkbox"/> Name pictures and objects when asked	<input type="checkbox"/> Most of what is said is not easily understood
<input type="checkbox"/> Follow two-step commands	<input type="checkbox"/> Confused by short sentences
<input type="checkbox"/> Show a broad understanding (receptive vocabulary) of 50 or more objects and pictures	<input type="checkbox"/> Cannot understand more than 10-20 words
<input type="checkbox"/> Show interest in books and stories	<input type="checkbox"/> No interest in stories and books

Social

<input type="checkbox"/> Play side-by-side with a same age friend	
<input type="checkbox"/> Identify many body parts	
<input type="checkbox"/> Help with dressing or undressing	<input type="checkbox"/> No interest in personal skills like dressing or undressing
<input type="checkbox"/> Help around the house with very simple tasks	<input type="checkbox"/> No interest in helping in social/household activities
<input type="checkbox"/> Use a spoon	<input type="checkbox"/> No interest in learning to feed self
<input type="checkbox"/> Show early imaginative play	<input type="checkbox"/> Play is not representative or imaginative – just pushing, dropping, hitting toys/objects
	<input type="checkbox"/> No sense of who they are





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✓	An average child can...	✓	Signs of possible problems include...
<i>Intellectual</i>			
<input type="checkbox"/>	Open screw toy		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Do puzzles with three items or shapes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No success or persistence to complete simple puzzles (1-3 pieces)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Copy familiar or recent experiences in play (e.g. teddy goes to the doctor)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Play is physical and repetitive, with little pretending
<input type="checkbox"/>	Use one object to stand for another, like a block for a car	<input type="checkbox"/>	Limited range of interests and activities in play

If you have any concerns about your child's development, see your child health nurse or GP.

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