

These are a list of skills your child may develop by the end of 9 months

Communication Skills

- Responds with gesture to “want up?”
- Beginning to wave in response to “bye bye”
- Understands simple words, listens to adult conversation
- Begins to make 2-syllable sounds (ma, ba, goo) and may use longer, repeated babbling (dadadada)

Fine Motor Skills

- Claps hands together
- Bangs object on table
- Transfers object hand to hand
- Feeds self finger foods

Gross Motor Skills

- Crawls forward/backward
- Makes stepping movements when supported
- Sits without support for several minutes
- Pulls to stand, but can be hard to get back down
- Stands up when leaning against something

Personal Social Skills

- Recognizes familiar faces and begins to know if someone is a stranger
- Likes to play with others, especially parents
- Responds to others’ emotions
- Likes to look at self in mirror
- May get upset when you leave even for a short time, but is relieved when you return
- May show frustration if a toy rolls away and cannot see it

Problem Solving Skills

- Looks around at things nearby
- Explores objects by putting in mouth
- Watches the path of something as it falls
- Looks for things that they see you hide
- Shows understanding of “in” and “out”

Communication Activities

- Imitate the sounds your baby makes
- Make different faces with baby
- Sing to your baby and play music
- Play social games (pat-a-cake and peek-a-boo)
- Talk to baby throughout the day, describe things you are doing

Fine Motor Activities

- Offer your baby a rattle to hold
- Let your baby feel many different textures
- Offer small bits of food or small objects to pick up to develop pincer grasp

Gross Motor Activities

- Allow for floor time play several times a day
- While on the floor, provide toys out of reach to encourage your baby to crawl
- Hold baby in a standing position, encourage bouncing up and down and stepping motions
- Encourage your baby to pull to stand in crib and later on a heavy piece of furniture
- When standing, hold a toy just out of reach to encourage your baby to walk along crib or furniture to get the toy

Personal Social and Problem Solving Activities

- Allow baby to see self and touch mirror, use baby’s name and identify body parts
- Give baby a pile of different textured clothing to explore
- During play, offer objects from baby’s side to encourage reaching across body
- Use real pictures of familiar people and places to make homemade books, place in taped Ziploc bags, talk about these pictures
- Show baby how to put objects in and dump out of containers, use objects such as clothes pins and small toys, but avoid objects that are too small that your baby can choke on