



Milestones Matter

Your Child at 2 to 3 Years

How your child plays, learns, speaks, acts and moves offers important clues about his or her development.

Your Child's Communication

- Uses word combinations often but may occasionally repeat some words or phrases like “baby, baby, baby sit down” or “I want, I want juice.”
- Tries to get your attention by saying “Look at me!”
- Says their name when asked.
- Uses some plural words like birds and toys.
- Uses -ing verbs like eating or running. Adds -ed to the end of words to talk about past actions like looked or played.
- Gives reasons for things and events. For example, saying that they need a coat when it's cold outside.
- Asks why and how questions.
- Answers questions such as “What do you do when you are sleepy?” or “Which one can you wear?”
- Correctly produces “p,” “b,” “m,” “h,” “w” and “n” sounds in words.
- Correctly produces most vowels in words.
- Speech is becoming clearer but may not be understandable to unfamiliar listeners or to people who do not know your child.

Each child develops uniquely, even within the same family, and may meet certain milestones earlier or later than others. If your child does not meet many of the milestones within their age range, or if you have any concerns about your child's hearing or development, it is important to act early. It can make a big difference!

This information was adapted with permission from the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association communication milestones: asha.org/public/developmental-milestones/communication-milestones

You Can Help Your Child Learn and Grow Here are some activities to enjoy with your child.

- **Use short words and sentences. Speak clearly.**
- **Repeat what your child says and add to it.**
- **Let your child know that what they say is important to you.** Ask them to repeat things that you do not understand.
- **Teach your child new words.** Reading books or talking about things you see is a great way to do this. Describe how things look or feel. Use words that describe color, shape and size.
- **Practice counting.** Count toes and fingers. Count steps.
- **Use new words in sentences to help your child learn the meaning.**
- **Look at family photos and name the people.** Talk about what they are doing in the picture.
- **Write simple phrases under the pictures.** For example, “I can swim.” Your child will start to understand that the letters mean something.
- **Ask your child to make a choice** instead of giving a yes or no answer.
- **Sing songs, play finger games and tell nursery rhymes.** These songs and games teach your child about the rhythm and sounds of language.
- **Talk to your child in the languages** you are most comfortable using. You will not confuse your child or stop them from learning English later.

If you have concerns, you can talk to your child's pediatrician, schedule a clinical evaluation or call your child's school district. You can also use ASHA ProFind (asha.org/profind) to find an ASHA-certified audiologist (asha.org/public/who-are-audiologists) or speech-language pathologist (asha.org/public/who-are-speech-language-pathologists) for an assessment.

For children 1 year (12 months) of age and up, you can also sign up for a free online or in-person speech, language and hearing screening with a speech-language pathologist from Boys Town National Research Hospital by emailing screenings@boystown.org or calling 531-355-5605. For more information visit bit.ly/hearing-language-screening.

Clinical Evaluations

Audiology: Boys Town National Research Hospital offers pediatric hearing evaluations. Please call 531-355-6520 for appointments.

Boys Town National Research Hospital - Downtown
555 N. 30th St., Omaha, NE 68131

Boys Town National Research Hospital - West
14040 Hospital Rd., Boys Town, NE 68010

Boys Town Council Bluffs Clinic
320 McKenzie Ave., Suite 202, Council Bluffs, IA 51503

Speech-Language Pathology: Boys Town National Research Hospital offers pediatric speech-language evaluations and therapy. Call 531-355-5087 for appointments.

Boys Town National Research Hospital - Downtown
555 N. 30th St., Omaha, NE 68131

Boys Town Speech-Language Clinic
14015 Flanagan Blvd., Suite 101, Boys Town, NE 68010

Boys Town Pediatrics - Maple Street Clinic
3838 N. 167th Court, Omaha, NE 68116

Behavioral Health: Boys Town Center for Behavioral Health offers services for children with behavioral or social-emotional concerns. Call 531-355-3358 for appointments.

Boys Town Center for Behavioral Health
13460 Walsh Dr., Boys Town, NE 68010

Educational Evaluations

Your child may qualify for a free assessment through the school district in which you reside, some of which are listed below. For more information, you can also contact Nebraska ChildFind at 1-888-806-6287.

Ashland-Greenwood
Public Schools
402-944-7083

Bellevue Public Schools
402-293-4000

Bennington Public Schools
402-238-3044

Blair Community Schools
402-426-2610

DC West Community Schools
402-359-2583

Elkhorn Public Schools
402-289-2579 ext. 11000

Fremont Public Schools
402-727-3084

Gretna Public Schools
402-332-3265

Millard Public Schools
402-715-8302

Omaha Public Schools
531-299-0242

Papillion-La Vista
Community Schools
402-514-3243

Ralston Public Schools
402-331-4700

Westside Community Schools
402-390-2100

Yutan Public Schools
402-625-2141