



Milestones Matter

Your Baby at 9 Months

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

What Most Babies Do by 9 Months

Social/Emotional

- May be afraid of strangers
- May be clingy with familiar adults
- Have favorite toys

Hearing/Language

- Understand "no"
- Make a lot of different sounds like "mamamama" and "bababababa"
- Copy sounds and gestures of others
- Use fingers to point at things
- Turn and look in the direction of sounds

Cognitive (learning, thinking, problem-solving)

- Watch the path of something as it falls
- Look for things they see you hide
- Play peek-a-boo
- Put things in their mouth
- Move things smoothly from one hand to the other
- Pick up things like cereal o's between thumb and index finger

Movement/Physical Development

- Stand while holding on to something
- Get into a sitting position independently
- Sit without support
- Pull to stand
- Crawl

You Know Your Baby Best

It's important to act right away if you have concerns about the way your child plays, learns, speaks, acts or moves, or if your child:

- Is missing milestones
- Doesn't bear weight on legs with support
- Doesn't sit with help
- Doesn't babble ("mama," "baba," "dada")
- Doesn't play any games involving back-and-forth play
- Doesn't respond to own name
- Doesn't seem to recognize familiar people
- Doesn't look where you point
- Doesn't transfer toys from one hand to the other

You Can Help Your Baby Learn and Grow

Here are some activities to enjoy with your baby.

- As she moves around more, stay close
- Continue with routines
- Play games with "my turn, your turn"
- Say what you think he is feeling
- Describe what you think she is looking at
- Talk about what he wants when he points at something
- Copy her sounds and words
- Ask for behaviors that you want
- Teach cause-and-effect by rolling balls back and forth
- Play peek-a-boo and hide-and-seek
- Provide lots of room for her to move and explore
- Put him close to things that he can pull up on safely

This information was adapted with permission from Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's milestone checklists and tips.

<https://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/actearly/milestones/index.html>

If you have any concerns about your child's hearing or development, it is important to act early. It can make a big difference! You can talk to your child's pediatrician, call your child's school district or area educational agency, or schedule a clinical hearing, speech-language, or developmental evaluation.

Clinical Evaluations

Boys Town National Research Hospital offers pediatric hearing evaluations. Call 531-355-6540 to schedule an appointment at the Downtown location or 531-355-6800 to schedule an appointment at the West location.

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

Boys Town National Research Hospital - West
14000 Boys Town Hospital Rd., Boys Town, NE 68010

Boys Town National Research Hospital offers speech-language evaluations and therapy for children with communication concerns. Call 531-355-5087 to schedule an appointment.

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 Center for Behavioral Health offers services for children with behavioral or social-emotional concerns. Call 531.355.3358 to schedule an appointment.

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 or area educational agency in which you reside, some of which are listed below. For more information, you can also contact Nebraska ChildFind at 1-888-806-6287 or Iowa Early Access at 1-888-IAKIDS1.

Ashland-Greenwood Public Schools
402-944-7083

Gretna Public Schools
402-332-3265

Bellevue Public Schools
402-293-4000

Millard Public Schools
402-715-8302

Bennington Public Schools
402-238-3044

Northwest Area Educational Agency
712-222-6050

DC West Community Schools
402-359-2583

Omaha Public Schools
531-299-0242

Elkhorn Public Schools
402-289-2579 ext. 11000

Papillion-La Vista Community Schools
402-514-3243

Fremont Public Schools
402-727-3084

Westside Community Schools
402-390-2100

Green Hills Area Educational Agency
712-366-0503 ext. 7215

Yutan Public Schools
402-625-2141

