

Ages and Stages: 9 to 12 Months

Children are curious, mobile, active, and capable, but definitely not concerned with safety or being neat. Children at this age are explorers. They don't realize they may be making a huge mess! It's important to be understanding and keep a sharp eye out for dangerous situations. Children just do what comes naturally for them. Even when their actions bother you, they aren't trying to annoy you. They are just learning and exploring

Look at your child grow!

When your child is around 9 months old, he or she may:

- respond when his or her name is spoken.
- stand for a short time while holding on for support.
- imitate sounds.
- be emotionally sensitive.
- poke fingers into places that look interesting.

When your child is around 10 months old, he or she may:

- feed him or herself, and hold a cup while drinking.
- pull him or herself up to standing and then sit down again.
- climb onto different objects, like chairs.
- understand simple sentences.
- feel shy around people he or she does not know.

When your child is around 11 months old, he or she may:

- walk by holding on to furniture or holding hands.
- hold a pencil or crayon and make marks on things.
- find things that are hidden.
- know that words are used to identify different things.
- use a single word to express a complete thought.

When your child is around 12 months old, he or she may:

- wave bye-bye.
- start walking, (though crawling is much faster).
- repeat words he or she knows.
- create words to describe things.
- enjoy feeding him or herself.
- climb to reach interesting objects.

Your child wants you to know several things. He or she may:

- look older now, but may still need you to look after all of his or her needs.
- need a safe and secure place to move around and explore. Exploring is how children learn.
- may seem headstrong or stubborn, but that's all part of growing up and learning healthy independence.
- have many feelings now, like sadness, happiness, anger, fear, and hurt. When you treat feelings with care, he or she will learn how to deal with feelings.
- require some time for him or her to adjust to new situations.
- enjoy being hugged even when there is no special reason.
- learn about the world and self through play.
- learn as you talk with him or her, naming what he or she hears, touches, sees, smells, tastes, and feels.
- need your comfort when afraid. Sometimes children become afraid of things that did not bother them when younger.
- need your careful attention. Every child is different. If you watch your child closely, you will get clues about how to help him or her grow.

Your child is an active learner who:

- is curious about the world and wants to explore.
- wants to taste, touch, and shake objects.
- likes to look at pictures in books and magazines.
- knows his or her own toys.

Your child is learning to connect with other people and may:

- react to a parent's approval and disapproval.
- be sensitive to other children's moods.
- may become anxious around strangers or people he or she does not see very often.
- have favorite people and toys.

Play helps your child learn. He or she may:

- enjoy playing peek-a-boo
- offer and accept toys from others, but not understand what it means to share.
- have a sense of humor and think that some things are funny.

Your child may enjoy toys and activities such as:

- Baby dolls
- Stuffed animals
- Puppets
- Large soft beads
- Blocks
- Balls
- Nesting toys
- Plastic containers
- Cloth or soft vinyl books

* The information is considered typical for this age. If you have questions about your child's development, contact your pediatrician or health care professional. If we do all we can do to help children develop and grow now, they will have the best chance to succeed in life.

Adapted from Alabama Cooperative Extension System by Traci Johnston. Originally developed by Ellen Abell and H. Wallace Goddard.