



AGE EXPECTED SNAPSHOTS

Age	Social/Emotional	Acquiring Knowledge & Skills	Meeting their Needs
<b>1mo</b>	<p>Snapshot of 1 month old babies in this area: Babies enjoy looking at faces and will brighten when talked to. They enjoy touch and being held by familiar adults. Babies recognize their moms by smell, touch, voice and face. They are learning how to internalize strategies for self-soothing. Babies express feelings by cooing, gurgling and crying.</p>	<p>Snapshot of 1 month old babies in this area: Babies respond to voices and can already recognize a parent's voice. They will look at colorful toys briefly, focusing on objects as far away as 8-12 inches.</p>	<p>Snapshot of 1 month old babies in this area: Babies can slightly lift their heads off a parent's shoulder or the floor if on their tummy so they can look at people or respond to a noise. When on their back, babies can turn their head to both sides. Hands are often fisted, so babies are not yet holding on to toys but may use a reflexive grasp to hold on to a caregiver's finger. A coordinated suck and swallow exists on the breast and/or bottle and babies will drink 2-4 ounces per feeding, at 6 or more feedings a day. Crying lets caregivers know when babies are hungry or uncomfortable.</p>
<b>2mo</b>	<p>Snapshot of 2 month old babies in this area: Babies will now react to caregivers by smiling, vocalizing and moving their arms and legs vigorously with excitement when they see them. They enjoy watching faces and are very responsive to facial expressions, movements and tone of voice. Babies enjoy touch and being held by familiar adults. They are becoming less reactive to their environment and better organized. They express feelings by cooing, gurgling and crying.</p>	<p>Snapshot of 2 month old babies in this area: Babies visually recognize a parent. They will gaze at a parent or toy. They are beginning to focus on people and objects further away (2-4 feet). Babies respond to sounds and voice with a change in behavior. They are beginning to make single vowel sounds.</p>	<p>Snapshot of 2 month old babies in this area: Babies are increasing their ability to control &amp; move their body in response to caregiver. They can roll to their back from their side to look for mom or dad. Use of forearms to lift their head is occurring when babies are on their tummy, and this allows for increased exploration of toys and faces. Babies are using a coordinated suck and swallow on the bottle and/or breast, with minimal leakage. Cries begin to have different tones for hunger, attention, discomfort, etc.</p>

Age	Social/Emotional	Acquiring Knowledge & Skills	Meeting their Needs
<b>3mo</b>	<p>Snapshot of 3 month old babies in this area: Babies enjoy touch and being held by familiar adults. They are now regularly smiling and cooing during face-to-face interactions and have a strong attachment to primary caregivers. Babies have special smiles just for parents/caregivers and may show signs of distress if handled by an unfamiliar adult. They express feelings by cooing, gurgling and crying.</p>	<p>Snapshot of 3 month old babies in this area: Babies are learning about their hands by bringing them close to their face to watch them or mouth them. They recognize the bottle. Babies will look when they hear a sound and will coo when talked to. They will look back and forth between toys. Babies still prefer faces but will look around the room at other objects.</p>	<p>Snapshot of 3 month old babies in this area: Head control now allows babies to look around from many positions, this supports increased ability to seek out toys or explore their world with their eyes Babies can participate in tummy time for a few minutes at a time. Babies may even begin to lift up to straight arms from their forearms to look around their environment. Babies can now sit upright on someone's lap with support. Babies are now taking 4-7 ounces per feeding without leakage. Differentiated cries are now recognized by caregivers</p>
<b>4mo</b>	<p>Snapshot of 4 month old babies in this area: Babies are very aware of their surroundings and become excited at new and different toys. They are starting to recognize unfamiliar people and places. Babies will participate in vocal play, engaging caregivers with a variety of sounds. They now expect, and elicit, responses from others. Crying may occur less often, as they are better regulated. They are now showing pleasure/ displeasure by vocalizing and may even laugh.</p>	<p>Snapshot of 4 month old babies in this area: Babies are now reaching for toys and can grasp a toy for at least a few seconds. They may bring it to their mouth. Purposeful shaking of toys to make noise will occur. They will watch their own hands and follow a dangling toy or object with their eyes. They will turn their heads towards a voice or the sound of a rattle. They get excited when they see the bottle getting prepared.</p>	<p>Snapshot of 4 month old babies in this area: Babies are getting strong and can remain on their tummy with their head and chest up for longer periods of time without fussing. Toys may be held for a few seconds. Babies will shake and may even start reaching for toys. When taking the bottle, babies may put both hands on it and pat it. Differentiated cries are recognized by caregivers.</p>

Age	Social/Emotional	Acquiring Knowledge & Skills	Meeting their Needs
<b>5mo</b>	Snapshot of 5 month old babies in this area: Babies are starting to interact with caregivers for reasons other than comfort and security. They will initiate interactions by smiling and vocalizing at parents. They are beginning to play along with baby games like tickles, peek-a-boo and pat-a-cake. Babies distinguish between friendly and angry voices. They are showing pleasure/displeasure by vocalizing and may even laugh.	Snapshot of 5 month old babies in this area: Babies are now able to hold a toy in both hands at the same time. If the toy drops they will pick it up, if it is still of interest. They now explore toys with their mouth. They will turn their head and look for a toy if it is dropped. They may turn and look if mom or dad calls their name. Babies are now imitating a few simple facial expressions.	Snapshot of 5 month old babies in this area: Babies may start to work to get to a toy that is out of reach. They will place both hands on the bottle when drinking. They still use cries most often to get needs met, but are also starting to use coos and smiles for social needs. Babies may start to lift arms to get parents to pick them up.
<b>6mo</b>	Snapshot of 6 month old babies in this area: Babies now enjoy looking in the mirror and will smile at their image. They are very interested in engaging adults and will do so using their voice and waving their arms. They will turn immediately upon hearing Mom's or Dad's voice across the room. Babies may protest separation from primary caregivers and need time to study new people. Stranger anxiety may be present. Babies will coo, babble and smile when playing if happy, and vocalize displeasure when unhappy.	Snapshot of 6 month old babies in this area: Babies are actively reaching for toys, and may even purposefully reach for a second toy if it is offered. Toys now include their own toes and feet. Mouthing toys occurs frequently as babies play. When they drop a toy, they will look for it because they remember it exists, even if it is out of sight. Babies will turn and look if mom or dad calls their name. They may try to get an object that is out of reach.	Snapshot of 6 month old babies in this area: Babies are rolling in all directions to reach toys and caregivers. They are now sitting in a high chair for meals. Babies hold their own bottle when drinking. Babies may begin to take food from a spoon. If exposed to early finger foods, like cheerios, babies will rake them with their fingers against the palm of their hand. Babies will use differentiated cries and coos to get needs met. Parents may see babies start to put their arms up to indicate they want to be picked up.

Age	Social/Emotional	Acquiring Knowledge & Skills	Meeting their Needs
<b>7mo</b>	<p>Snapshot of 7 month old babies in this area: Babies are more often engaging others socially with gestures, like holding their arms up to be picked up or pushing things away to protest. They will squeal and giggle to get attention. Stranger anxiety may still be present, with babies clinging to mom or dad if someone unfamiliar approaches. Babies may show fleeting interest in other babies, but interactions will typically be limited to a coo or a grab.</p>	<p>Snapshot of 7 month old babies in this area: Play with toys expands to include banging and shaking to hear noises. They can now use their hands to manipulate toys between them. Babies will hold a toy in one hand and pick up a second toy with the other hand. They will transfer toys from one hand to another and play with paper if given the chance. Babies will turn and look if mom or dad call their name, and may also look at a family member or two if their names are said. Babies are vocalizing, adding new vowel sounds and may even make some consonant-vowel combinations as they play.</p>	<p>Snapshot of 7 month old babies in this area: Babies can now sit and play with their toys or get on their tummy and reach out with one arm to get them. Babies will experiment on hands and knees, rocking back and forth. Most babies can now scoot backwards. Babies are eating solid foods from a spoon well and can finger feed dry cereal and little pieces of soft, ripe fruits, soft cooked vegetables and/or easy to chew meats. Babies are using more gestures like reaching, pushing away, etc. to express their wants and needs in addition to crying, shouting, squealing and vocalizing.</p>
<b>8mo</b>	<p>Snapshot of 8 month old babies in this area: Babies continue to increase their ability to vocalize in ‘conversation’. They start to initiate social games like peek-a-boo. Babies also start to tune-in to their caregivers’ emotional states and this helps them be better regulated. Babies use gestures and vocalizations to protest. Babies are very attached to caregivers. First stranger anxiety may be resolving. Babies may show fleeting interest in other babies, but interactions will typically be limited to a coo or a grab.</p>	<p>Snapshot of 8 month old babies in this area: Babies are sitting with enough stability to use hands to play for short periods. They have learned how to get toys to make noise and will shake them repeatedly. They may be activating cause and effect toys but are also still putting toys in their mouth to explore. They can make several consonant-vowel sounds like da, ka, ba. Babies can now use their mobility to get to toys out of reach. In addition to knowing their name, babies will respond to some requests given with gestures (e.g., come here, etc.) as well as look at some motivating people and/or toys when named by others.</p>	<p>Snapshot of 8 month old babies in this area: Babies are starting to scoot/crawl on their belly to get to toys/caregiver. They are sitting with enough stability to use hands more successfully at mealtimes. They are eating solid foods 3x/day and are expanding the foods they feed themselves (e.g., little pieces of soft, ripe fruits, soft cooked vegetables and/or easy to chew meats). They are able to eat ground/mashed table foods. Babies continue to use shouting, vocalizing and/or squealing to get someone’s attention. Gestures will also be used to communicate some wants and needs.</p>

Age	Social/Emotional	Acquiring Knowledge & Skills	Meeting their Needs
<b>9mo</b>	<p>Snapshot of 9 month old babies in this area: Babies now use social referencing (looking at parent’s face and expression) if they need information about a new situation or person. They engage parents with smiles and back and forth sound play. They will turn their head when their name is called. Babies may be starting to use social gestures to interact with others, waving, holding toys up to show others, looking back at others to ‘request’. Babies may show fleeting interest in other babies, but interactions will typically be limited to a coo or a grab.</p>	<p>Snapshot of 9 month old babies in this area: Babies can now purposefully release a toy from their hand and may enjoy putting things in/out of containers. They know toys exist, even if not visible and will search for a toy if it is taken away. Imitation of sounds, including consonant-vowel combinations can be heard in play. They understand their name and a few names of family members too. Babies start to show they know the names of a few familiar objects by looking at them when they are named. Play may include banging objects to make loud noises, throwing toys, pulling a string to get an object and clapping of hands when excited.</p>	<p>Snapshot of 9 month old babies in this area: Babies sit well and will transition into other positions to get their needs met. They may be pulling to stand using caregivers or furniture. Babies will grasp food and small toys with thumb and forefinger. They will hold, bite and chew a cracker or cookie. Reaching and/or pointing to items to make requests is seen, and babies may shake their head “no” in addition to using their vocalizations and cries to get their wants and needs met.</p>
<b>10mo</b>	<p>Snapshot of 10 month old babies in this area: Babies are showing early understanding of social games like peek a boo. They may imitate sounds or words when turn-taking. They are starting to respond to ‘no’ and will briefly stop. They will show sensitivity to the mood of others. Babies are using social gestures to interact: waving, holding toys up to show others, and looking back at others to ‘request’. Babies may show fleeting interest in other babies, but interactions will typically be limited to a coo or a grab.</p>	<p>Snapshot of 10 month old babies in this area: Babies are showing more of an interest in books and will look at pictures. They are using more refined hand skills to explore toys, e.g., poking them with a finger. They like to imitate actions in play like banging and patting. Their play now includes taking rings off a stacker or items out of containers and throwing toys to see/hear what happens when they land. They understand that a toy is still there if it is covered and they will try to find it.</p>	<p>Snapshot of 10 month old babies in this area: Babies are now more mobile and can crawl to play and explore. They like standing and may even be starting to cruise along furniture. Babies are eating more foods and relying less on milk/formula. Babies will more actively use their body to get their needs met by going to where an item is located (i.e. toy box to look for toys), reaching for an item and looking back at caregiver to request it. Babies will also use their voice to get other’s attention and to indicate they want a change in activity.</p>

Age	Social/Emotional	Acquiring Knowledge & Skills	Meeting their Needs
<b>11mo</b>	<p>Snapshot of 11 month old babies in this area: Babies are showing understanding of social games like peek a boo. They are starting to respond to 'no' and will briefly stop when it is heard. Showing sensitivity to others' moods is present and they will express at least two emotions (pleasure, fear, sadness, etc.). . Babies will engage in behaviors/do actions to influence a response from others. Babies are using social gestures to interact with others, waving, holding toys up to show others, looking back at others to 'request'. They will show interest in other babies, including coos, grabs, smiles and may even attempt to imitate the other baby's sounds</p>	<p>Snapshot of 11 month old babies in this area: Babies understand that actions have an effect and will repeat sounds or gestures if others laugh at them. They will actively seek out their toys now that motor skills allow for it. Play may include taking rings off a ring stacker or dumping items out of containers. They can hold a crayon and may make marks on paper but likely still prefer to put the crayon in their mouth. Babies are making many different vowel-consonant combinations with their babbling sounding more like words. Babies will look for a few motivating people and objects when named and may show they understand "no".</p>	<p>Snapshot of 11 month old babies in this area: Babies are now showing interest in trying to walk, but have not yet mastered it. More mobility open ups ways for babies to meet their own entertainment and physical needs. Babies are eating solid foods 3x a day now, and are ready for ground, mashed or coarsely chopped table foods. Babies are using their hands to self-feed and showing interest in using the spoon. Babies may start saying "baba" for the bottle or a name for a caregiver (e.g., mama, dada) but are still more likely to use gestures or voice over words when attempting to get needs met.</p>
<b>12mo</b>	<p>Snapshot of 12 month old babies in this area: Babies are becoming more independent and autonomous. They will start to test limits; testing limits over and over help babies learn rules and the consequences of breaking them. They will start handing toys to mom or dad when asked. A second period of separation anxiety may occur, with babies wanting to see an adult present most o f the time. Babies will spend time watching what other babies are doing and may even imitate them. They are using gestures often for the social functions or greeting, requesting, commenting and protesting/refusing. They may be using first words socially. They show sensitivity to the mood of others and will express at least two emotions (pleasure, fear, sadness, etc.).</p>	<p>Snapshot of 12 month old babies in this area: Babies are very curious about the environment and will point to objects, looking back at their caregiver with a questioning look. Hand/finger use is more controlled which makes playing with shape sorters and pop up toys more fun. Taking items out of, and putting items into, containers occurs. They are now connecting words with objects and can follow simple direction relating to their daily routine. Babies' understanding of language greatly exceeds their use. First words to name favorite people or objects may be said. Early understanding of size concepts may be shown by placing a small object on top of, or inside of, a larger one. They will use an adult as a tool to help restart a toy if it stops</p>	<p>Snapshot of 12 month old babies in this area: Babies are still working on mastering walking and enjoy exploring larger areas of their home. They can take off hats and shoes and will cooperate with getting dressed. Babies will finger feed themselves part of a meal, eating finely chopped pieces of fruits, veggies and meats. If they are given a spoon during meals, they are more likely to play with it than bring it to their mouth. Babies are expected to be using a word or two to get wants/needs met in addition to gestures and vocalizations.</p>

Age	Social/Emotional	Acquiring Knowledge & Skills	Meeting their Needs
<b>13mo</b>	<p>Snapshot of 13 month old children in this area: Children are becoming more independent and autonomous. They will test limits; testing limits over and over help children learn rules, and the consequences of breaking them. They also start following directions to please adults. Children are using gestures often for the social functions or greeting, requesting, commenting and protesting/refusing. They may socialize with others using babbles, jargon and a few early words. Children will spend time watching what other children are doing and may even imitate them. They will show awareness of the feelings of others.</p>	<p>Snapshot of 13 month old children in this area: Children are now finding many objects named by their parent. Children use their hands in a coordinated manner when playing. They will often point to pictures, when looking at books, with the expectation that the caregiver will label them. Play includes placing 3 or more objects into containers and they may try to stack one item on another. Children are following more simple directions in routines. They are more often repeating simple sounds and words on request. Early word use is emerging.</p>	<p>Snapshot of 13 month old children in this area: Mobility has increased, and children are now all over the house. Even if they have been walking, they may resort to crawling if it will get them to where they want to go more quickly. Helping with dressing is consistent, including taking a few items off. Children use their hands in a coordinated manner when eating. They will now feed themselves a good portion of their meal or snack with their hands. They may show interest in bringing a spoon to their mouth. Transition to cup drinking may be occurring. Children can now use a controlled bite on a soft cookie. Communicating requests is mostly accomplished with pointing and gestures but a few words may also be used to request favorite items or people.</p>
<b>14mo</b>	<p>Snapshot of 14 month old children in this area: Children will show affection to mom and dad by giving them hugs and kisses. They want to be near adults and will engage in social games to please them. Children will initiate play with games like peek-a-boo. Children are aware of peers but social interactions with other children remain limited as the children are still quite self-focused. Socializing occurs through use of gestures, jargon and some words. They will show awareness of the feelings of others.</p>	<p>Snapshot of 14 month old children in this area: Increased persistence and problem solving skills are seen. If unsuccessful, they know to seek adults as a resource for help. Hand use is good enough to allow for turning of pages in books and scribbling with crayons. They want to imitate what they see siblings and adults do. They may now name a few pictures in a book, but still prefer for caregivers to name pictures. Children look for familiar objects when they are named. Vocabulary is increasing by about one new word each week.</p>	<p>Snapshot of 14 month old children in this area: Independent walking is present and children should be fairly steady when doing it. They may start to attempt to jump. Children are eating a larger variety of foods and can chew most foods well. They will finger feed themselves half of meals. They may hold a spoon and bring it to their mouth. They may turn the spoon over as they try. Skills with undressing now include pulling off socks. Using a few single words to make requests for foods, drinks, toys, activities should exit.</p>

Age	Social/Emotional	Acquiring Knowledge & Skills	Meeting their Needs
<b>15mo</b>	<p>Snapshot of 15 month old children in this area: Children want to be near adults and try to engage them, but will have a short attention span. Children may be imitating mom and dad; learning how to calm and self-regulate based on models they see. They may treat caregivers differently and be hardest on the caregiver they depend on the most. Children are aware of peers but social interactions with other children remain limited as they are still quite self-focused. Temper tantrums are emerging.</p>	<p>Snapshot of 15 month old children in this area: Curiosity is high, and children are driven by motor skills. It may be hard for children to slow down enough to do fine motor activities or “read” books. They want to touch everything and they lack a sense of danger for outlets or climbing to high places. Play with toys starts to become more complex, they may even play with a single toy in a variety of ways. Children are now using jargon mixed with real words. They understand that by pointing and vocalizing they can control the behavior of other people. Vocabulary of 2-5 words is expected</p>	<p>Snapshot of 15 month old children in this area: Children are now walking alone through the environment and can easily squat to pick up a toy without falling. They may start going up/down stairs on their hands and knees. Active participation in dressing by raising arms and lifting legs occurs. At meals, they are eating the same foods as other family members and may begin to try to scoop foods with their spoon. They are becoming more specific with pointing and gestures used when requesting. They will use a few single words when expressing wants and needs.</p>
<b>16mo</b>	<p>Snapshot of 16 month old children in this area: Children are imitating grown up activities, possibly pretending to talk on the phone or wipe down a table. They enjoy engaging with adults and doing activities to please them. Children may get anxious around strangers and prefer to be near caregivers. Children are aware of peers but social interactions with other children may remain limited as children are still quite self-focused.</p>	<p>Snapshot of 16 month old children in this area: Imitation of what children see their family do around them now drives their learning. Imagination is growing, and children may now pretend a block is a phone, a bowl or a hat. Stacking and building are also common to see during play. They may associate an animal sound to a familiar animal and can point to all their facial features on request. Vocabulary comprehension has now grown to around 10 words.</p>	<p>Snapshot of 16 month old children in this area: When walking, the children’s legs are closer together and they are able to walk while carrying toys from room to room. They are interested in going up stairs by walking with help from a caregiver. When dressing, children are now able to put on a hat. When eating, they will now use a spoon, but still spill a lot. . At meals, they are eating the same foods as other family members. Children are now using some single words to express wants and needs in addition to gestures.</p>



Age	Social/Emotional	Acquiring Knowledge & Skills	Meeting their Needs
<b>17mo</b>	<p>Snapshot of 17 month old children in this area: Children enjoy engaging with adults and doing activities to please them. They are aware of other children and will play near them using similar toys in similar ways. On occasion, they may compete for a toy with another child This is a critical period where children begin to understand that people exist and there is a whole world they can interact with.</p>	<p>Snapshot of 17 month old children in this area: Eye-hand coordination and problem solving skills are working together to allow children to solve simple puzzles and imitate simple lines with a crayon. They can now rotate wrists/fingers so that completing puzzles is easier. Children may start using tools, like a stool or a box, to get to items that are out of reach. They are now understanding names of familiar objects from a variety of categories and may be identifying a few pictures of those items in books. A vocabulary of 10-15 different words is expected</p>	<p>Snapshot of 17 month old children in this area: Children are now attempting a fast walk or a stiff looking run. They can climb over anything in the house that may be in the way of getting to what they want. . At meals, they are eating the same foods as other family members. When using a spoon to eat, they will still have a significant amount of spilling (50% of attempts). With dressing, they will take off hats and also socks. Single words and gestures are used to get wants/needs met.</p>
<b>18mo</b>	<p>Snapshot of 18 month old children in this area: Socially, children are often found playing near each other with similar toys. They may interact aggressively as they do not have the language to express frustration. Pushing limits, saying ‘no’ and tantrums are all part of children’s development at this age. Children may experience stranger anxiety making separations from the parent more difficult. They start to use words to interact socially and may be very affectionate. True emotions are emerging and children may express more complex emotions such as fear, sympathy, modesty, guilt and embarrassment.</p>	<p>Snapshot of 18 month old children in this area: Children’s play is expanding to include simple pretend play. They will experiment with an object to discover its purpose but no longer need to mouth it. Attention and interest in books increases and they will sit and listen to a shortened version of a story. When asked, they can point to pictures in books and can name familiar objects. They know names of objects from a variety of categories (e.g., foods, clothes, toys, etc.) and they say at least 15 different words</p>	<p>Snapshot of 18 month old children in this area: Children are very active now; running, carrying larger toys while walking and walking up stairs with a hand held. They can climb up onto a chair and sit down and are more actively participating in self-care activities; unzipping a zipper, working on undressing and feeding themselves with a spoon. . At meals, they are eating the same foods as other family members. They are more cooperative with teeth brushing and more interested in household activities (imitating some simple activities likes cleaning up spills). Wants and needs are expressed to others with words and gestures.</p>

Age	Social/Emotional	Acquiring Knowledge & Skills	Meeting their Needs
<b>19-21 mo</b>	<p>Snapshot of 19-21 month old children in this area: Children now have a better understanding of others' feelings. They will now try to comfort others if they are distressed. Increasing independence allows them to move away from parents and sit with other familiar adults. Children will exhibit varying emotions in play, they may even be seen scolding stuffed animals/dolls. They are interested in playing with other children but may not be able to share yet.</p>	<p>Snapshot of 19-21 month old Children in this area: Children have become more independent and will attempt to solve problems on their own. Attention is increasing and they can now sit and look at a book for several minutes, they may now orient it correctly. Hands are becoming more skilled for things like imitating a line when coloring. Children may be very interested in small objects, like bugs. They are beginning to show understanding of prepositions such as in, out, up and down in addition to lots of names of objects, actions and descriptive words. This coincides with early understanding of size demonstrated through play such as nesting 3 food containers of graded sizes as they explore cabinets and drawers.</p>	<p>Snapshot of 19-21 month old children in this area: Children are very interested in testing their improving motor skills by trying skills like playing in squatting, balancing on curbs/changes in surfaces, walking up and down stairs with support. Hands are becoming more skilled for things like feeding themselves with little spilling and removing shoes. At meals, they are eating the same foods as other family members. They may show awareness of need for a diaper change. Language has developed enough that they can now ask verbally for some favorite foods, toys, people- they may still lead you to what they want but this will fade as vocabulary increases.</p>
<b>22-24 mo</b>	<p>Snapshot of 22-24 month old children in this area: Children are developing a sense of self, now using 'mine'; claiming everything as their own. They show a wide variety of emotions (e.g., fear, anger, sympathy, modesty, guilt, joy, etc.). They are interested in playing with other children but may not be able to share yet. Children have increased symbolic play, imitating routines that they see in everyday life. They may attempt to comfort others when they are distressed and may also show jealousy of attention given to others, especially family members.</p>	<p>Snapshot of 22-24 month old children in this area: There tends to be relatively less movement and more interest in sitting to play at this age. Children spend more time in play; pretending with dolls and using some objects with a different purpose (e.g., block as food). Improved dexterity allows them to turn pages of a book one at a time and complete simple 5-7 piece puzzles (not interlocking). Children are saying about 50 words and are starting to combine them into phrases. Their understanding of language far exceeds what they can express. Their vocabulary includes a variety of nouns, verbs, and descriptive words, including size words along with personal pronouns like 'I', 'you', and 'mine'.</p>	<p>Snapshot of 22-24 month old children in this area: Children are now walking with their legs closer together and running fairly well (arms no longer in high guard). Increased dexterity allows children more independence with activities of daily living- they can take off many clothing items and can use a spoon more efficiently. At meals, they are eating the same foods as other family members. Children can use words to ask for a variety of foods, drinks, toys, activities and people but tend to want things their way and may still resort to crying/tantrums instead of words.</p>

Age	Social/Emotional	Acquiring Knowledge & Skills	Meeting their Needs
<b>25-27 mo</b>	<p>Snapshot of 25-27 month old children in this area: Children are developing a strong sense of independence and might become easily frustrated if they are unable to do something themselves. They may start to show facial expression and behavior indicating modesty, pity and shame. It is common for children to be more rigid about their schedule and routines. Although they want to be independent, separation anxiety is also common at this age. Their interest in other children continues to grow and they are now able to offer toys and initiate play with others (although the play may not always be successful).</p>	<p>Snapshot of 25-27 month old children in this area: At this age, there is an ‘explosion’ of school type learning (big/little, early counting, etc.). Children may enjoy coloring and want to ‘write’ by imitating lines and circular scribbles. Increased fine motor coordination allows them to build large towers and manipulate small toys. They will have mastered verbal imitation of words and phrases, understand the concept of taking just ‘one’ and can match pictures to real objects when looking at books. Their vocabulary includes a variety of nouns, verbs, and descriptive words, including size words along with personal pronouns like ‘I’, ‘you’, and ‘mine’.</p>	<p>Snapshot of 25-27 month children in this area: Children are now beginning to show the ability to go up and down a few steps without support. They can undress themselves almost completely and may change clothes simply because they can. If some foods are accessible, they can get their own snacks. At meals, they are eating the same foods as other family members. Children now have the language skills to request almost all their needs related to food and drink sometimes using 2-word phrases. Their vocabulary is growing to include many other wants and needs. However, they may still opt to ‘do it myself’ rather than requesting verbally.</p>
<b>28-30 mo</b>	<p>Snapshot of 28-30 month old children in this area: Children are now very interested in playing alongside each other. Symbolic play continues to develop (i.e., puppets, dress up clothes, dolls/action figures are fun for them). The ability to share is just emerging and they can use short phrases to interact with peers. They like routines and often do not have the flexibility to adjust to changes. Because of this fondness for routines, they often like to hear the same stories over and over again. They want independence but still want caregivers nearby. They will separate from caregivers easily in familiar environments. Screaming and temper tantrums may still occur at times. They are now starting to be more conversational in their social interactions (able to relate simple imaginative tales, actions in books). They will express emotions of pity, shame and modesty through their behavior and facial expressions.</p>	<p>Snapshot of 28-30 month old children in this area: Children continue to develop preschool type learning such as matching colors and may be identifying a couple correctly. Continued progress with fine motor skills allows them to hold a crayon between fingers and thumbs. They show growing awareness of size and place rings on a stacker in correct order. Children can state their first and last name and give names of a few friends/teachers. They can verbally seek out help and can state something is ‘broken’ if it is not working correctly. Language is exploding (100+ words) and they can now use plurals and early action ‘ing’ words. They can look at pictures and state what an object is used for. They may be able to tell what foods are expected for specific meals or what clothes are needed for different occasions.</p>	<p>Snapshot of 28-30 month old children in this area: Children should be able to jump with both feet off the ground now and are more consistent with catching a large ball. They can pick up and carry items to put them away and may enjoy helping parents unpack groceries or other ‘heavy’ items. Continued progress with fine motor skills allows them to use a fork well, assist with tooth brushing, dry hands after washing and possibly put on an article of clothing. Children can make requests using 2-3 word phrases including food and drinks. They may refuse things such as naps using phrases.</p>

Age	Social/Emotional	Acquiring Knowledge & Skills	Meeting their Needs
<b>31-33 mo</b>	<p>Snapshot of 31-33 month old children in this area: Children are becoming truly social now and are now using more interactive/associative play with peers. During play they may verbalize a play plan (“I’m mommy; you be baby”). They participate in conversations with caregivers and peers. They can point out themselves and close family and friends in photos. They will express emotions like pity, shame and modesty through their behavior and facial expressions. They will take pride in their achievements.</p>	<p>Snapshot of 31-33 month old children in this area: It is now easier to assess how much children know because of the amount of talking they do. They can speak about past events, use 3 to 4-word sentences that can be understood by strangers 75% of the time &amp; show increasing curiosity by asking ‘why’ questions related to items and activities in their daily life. Preschool readiness skills including matching &amp; sorting of a few colors/shapes/pictures; basic number &amp; size concepts; and drawing simple recognizable pictures or letters.</p>	<p>Snapshot of 31-33 month old children in this area: Children have progressed to using alternating feet to go up stairs. They are becoming much more independent in self-care and may be potty trained during the day. Children can often dress themselves with some supervision including their coat. They will feed themselves at meals using utensils when appropriate. Children can now use a fair number of 3-4 word sentences and have a rapidly growing vocabulary for verbalizing their desires relating to toys, activities and people.</p>
<b>34-36 mo</b>	<p>Snapshot of 34-36 month old children in this area: Children are now starting to be able to express ideas and sometimes feelings using words. Emotions may shift suddenly as they learn to handle them. Children are beginning to think about the feelings of others; but they may only be able to relate emotionally if they have the same feelings/perspective as the other person does. They can participate in circle or interactive games (Hide n Seek, Ring Around the Rosie). They also tend to be dictatorial and demanding at this age. Children may show more fear about ‘scary’ scenes in movies and may have nightmares.</p>	<p>Snapshot of 34-36 month old children in this area: Preschool readiness continues to advance; They begin to respond to the concept of opposites (fire is hot, ice is cold) and more complex size concepts (longer/shorter). They show greater understanding of prepositions (over, under, behind), verbs and most common adjectives. Their ability to use their hands during play allows them to begin to cut with scissors. Pretend play becomes more complex (acting out scenes with action figures). Children this age tend to ask many questions and can correctly answer ‘what,’ ‘where’ and ‘who’ questions. They now regularly use short sentences about events: the past, present and future.</p>	<p>Snapshot of 34-36 month old children in this area: Children are moving around their environments with more stability and coordination- they can now go up and down stairs using alternating feet and hop on one foot a couple times. This increased motor refinement is also apparent in their ability to use their hands during self-help activities- they may be able to pour a drink from pitcher to cup, feed and undress themselves completely, unfasten buttons and put on their own shoes. Children can now express themselves using 3-4 word phrases throughout their daily routines.</p>

Resources: Print

Child Indicators Booklet: February 22, 2013. Infant & Toddler Connection of Virginia.

HELP Strands 0-3: VORT Corporation 1992-2013.

Morris, S. E., Dunn M. K. Pre-Feeding Skills, Second Edition, Therapy Skill Builders, 2000

Resources: Web

[https://www.babycenter.com/0\\_developmental-milestones-socialization\\_6576.b](https://www.babycenter.com/0_developmental-milestones-socialization_6576.b)

Feeding and Swallowing Disorders, American Speech-Language-Hearing Association,

[www.asha.org](http://www.asha.org)

<https://ectacenter.org/eco/assets/pdfs/>

[Outcome1LarimerCountyAgeAnchoringTool.pdf](#)

<https://www.scholastic.com/teachers/articles/teaching-content/ages-stages-empathy/>