No two babies are alike. Each child will grow and learn differently. Here’s a checklist of developmental milestones—things most children can do by a certain age. Not reaching these milestones, or reaching them much later than other children, could be a sign of developmental delay.

Here are some things children are usually able to do at different ages:

**1–2 Months**
- Sucks and/or swallows easily
- Turns head from side to side when lying on tummy
- Startles easily in response to loud noises
- Turns head in direction that cheek is touched

**3–4 Months**
- Holds a rattle and smiles
- Makes cooing sounds like “ooh” or “aah”
- Rolls from tummy to back
- Plays with hands by touching them together or putting them in the mouth

**4–6 Months**
- Laughs and babbles, like saying “bababa” or “dadada”
- Balances self while sitting for a few seconds
- Moves toys from hand to hand
- Turns toward sounds like your voice or music

**6–9 Months**
- Sits up without falling
- Crawls or creeps forward on tummy by moving arms and legs
- Holds something in each hand at the same time
- Pulls up to stand by holding on to furniture
- Shakes head to say “no”

**9–12 Months**
- Takes steps by holding on to furniture
- Picks up small objects, toys and finger foods
- Waves “bye-bye”
- Says “Mama” or “Dada” to the right person
- Looks at pictures in a book

**12–15 Months**
- Walks without help
- Drinks from a cup without help
- Picks up small objects and drops into a container
- Points and asks for things
- Scribbles on paper using crayon

**15–18 Months**
- Points to body parts—eyes, nose, mouth—when you name them
- Shows emotions—happy or sad
- Tries to talk and repeats words
- Feeds self with spoon but spills
- Looks at picture books and turns pages

**18–24 Months**
- Points to pictures in a book when you name them
- Puts word together like “mommy shoes,” “see car,” “go bye-bye”
- Shows affection—offers hugs and kisses
- Plays actively with toys—kicks large ball, stacks things, etc.
- Takes off clothes on their own like hat, shoes, socks

**24–36 Months**
- Follows simple two step directions like, “Go to your room and bring me a diaper.”
- Uses 4 to 5 word sentences
- Plays make-believe with dolls, stuffed animals, and people
- Shows affection for playmates
- Jumps up and down

If your child is younger than three and you have questions, call 202-727-3665 or visit www.strongstartdc.com.

Don't Wait and Wonder.