

Early communication sets the stage for talking, learning, and later success in life. What you do and say now can make all the difference in your baby's development. Especially because your baby's brain is developing at an amazing rate.

Our Social Communication Milestones cover 5 developmental domains—Play, Language, Social Interaction, Emotional Regulation, and Self-Directed Learning—with two developmental threads in each domain. Here you will find a list of 10 milestones every 2 months. Follow the threads to find out what's in store for your baby from 1 to 24 months and celebrate as your baby reaches each new milestone.

For more detail on our **Social Communication Milestones**, click on your child's age to download and print the milestones every 2 months with lots of examples: scgc.firstwordsproject.com.

At **Baby Navigator** you can get started using our **Social Communication Growth Charts**—a powerful new online tool to help parents encourage the milestones that matter most, with videos to explore and questions to chart your child's growth. Go to Baby Navigator to find out what else you get when you join. Everything is FREE and all of our resources are virtual so you can access them from anywhere anytime.



1-2 MONTHS

Language	Gestures & Meanings	I can orient toward your voice and change what I'm doing in response to you.
	Sounds & Words	I can make gurgling sounds when I'm happy and different cries when I'm upset.
Play	Using Actions with Objects	I can move my fingers and bring my hands to my mouth.
	Social Sharing with Objects	I can easily look at faces and objects that are near me.
Social Interaction	Social Attention	I am drawn to look at your face when you are holding me or come near me.
	Intentional Communication	I can make sounds and move my arms and legs when I'm excited.
Emotional Regulation	Sharing & Managing Emotions	I can smile back at you when you smile at me.
	Regulating Challenging Moments	I can calm myself briefly by putting my hands in my mouth and sucking on my fingers.
Self-Directed Learning	Understanding Messages	I notice you and turn my head toward you when I hear your voice.
	Creating New Ideas	I explore my body by touching and mouthing.

3-4 MONTHS

Language	Gestures & Meanings	I can turn toward you and bat at a toy you offer.
	Sounds & Words	I can make cooing sounds when I see you or see something interesting.
Play	Using Actions with Objects	I can mouth or touch an object that you put near me.
	Social Sharing with Objects	I can watch and follow a toy move from side to side.
Social Interaction	Social Attention	I can look at you and smile when I'm happy.
	Intentional Communication	I can look at you to keep the interaction going and look away when it's too much.
Emotional Regulation	Sharing & Managing Emotions	I can smile and laugh with you when you make a silly sound or a toy makes a fun noise.
	Regulating Challenging Moments	I can calm down when you rock me, touch me, or make gentle sounds.
Self-Directed Learning	Understanding Messages	I can notice things that make sounds or move around me.
	Creating New Ideas	I explore things by touching, batting, and mouthing.

5-6 MONTHS

Language	Gestures & Meanings	I can try to roll over and take or touch a toy that you offer.
	Sounds & Words	I can use my voice to make different sounds in a variety of activities.
Play	Using Actions with Objects	I can reach to take and hold an object while on my back or belly.
	Social Sharing with Objects	I can enjoy interacting with you while holding an object.
Social Interaction	Social Attention	I can shift my attention from you to an object and back to you.
	Intentional Communication	I can use my voice and movements when I need something.
Emotional Regulation	Sharing & Managing Emotions	I can use different sounds to let you know I'm happy.
	Regulating Challenging Moments	I can start to calm down when I see you coming to comfort me.
Self-Directed Learning	Understanding Messages	I can notice what you say and do and change my expression or action.
	Creating New Ideas	I can try different actions and watch to see what happens.

7-8 MONTHS

Language	Gestures & Meanings	I can use my hands to take things and move my body toward what interests me.
	Sounds & Words	I can make different noises with my mouth and different sounds.
Play	Using Actions with Objects	I can grasp, hold, bang, mouth, and let go of objects to explore how they work.
	Social Sharing with Objects	I am interested in exploring objects with you and noticing your reactions.
Social Interaction	Social Attention	I notice you, look at you often, and can easily shift my attention to you when you talk or gesture.
	Intentional Communication	I am learning you are the agent of change.
Emotional Regulation	Sharing & Managing Emotions	I can smile, laugh, and use my voice when I'm happy.
	Regulating Challenging Moments	I can use different actions and sounds, in addition to crying, when I'm upset.
Self-Directed Learning	Understanding Messages	I can use different actions and sounds that show I anticipate what will happen next.
	Creating New Ideas	I am interested in learning what I can do with objects.



9-10 MONTHS

Language	Gestures & Meanings	I can use early gestures like giving and reaching to get you to do something.
	Sounds & Words	I can use my voice to make different sounds to let you know how I feel.
Play	Using Actions with Objects	I can explore objects and repeat different actions with objects.
	Social Sharing with Objects	I enjoy and anticipate your actions.
Social Interaction	Social Attention	I notice you and what you're looking at.
	Intentional Communication	I can let you know what I want and what I don't want.
Emotional Regulation	Sharing & Managing Emotions	I can share happy moments when I interact with you.
	Regulating Challenging Moments	I can share sad or frustrated feelings to get you to comfort me.
Self-Directed Learning	Understanding Messages	I can guess what you're about to do and use "hints" around me to understand your message.
	Creating New Ideas	I notice you and listen to your voice to guide my actions.

11-12 MONTHS

Language	Gestures & Meanings	I can use gestures like showing and pointing to get you to notice what I am interested in.
	Sounds & Words	I can use speech sounds together as if I am "talking" to you.
Play	Using Actions with Objects	I can use functional actions with several objects.
	Social Sharing with Objects	I enjoy taking turns exchanging objects with you.
Social Interaction	Social Attention	I am eager to interact with you and help keep the interaction going.
	Intentional Communication	I can get you to notice me and things I'm interested in.
Emotional Regulation	Sharing & Managing Emotions	I can share enjoyment and flow with transitions between activities.
	Regulating Challenging Moments	I can hang in there during a necessary activity and do things to make myself feel better.
Self-Directed Learning	Understanding Messages	I can follow simple directions like "come here" or "give it to me" when you ask me with gestures.
	Creating New Ideas	I watch you and try to do something with you or take on a job I can do with a little help.

13-14 MONTHS

Language	Gestures & Meanings	I can learn new gestures like clapping and blowing a kiss by watching and imitating you.
	Sounds & Words	I can use a few protowords or early forms of words in familiar situations.
Play	Using Actions with Objects	I can use functional actions with you or a stuffed animal.
	Social Sharing with Objects	I can learn new actions with objects by watching and imitating you.
Social Interaction	Social Attention	I can watch you and imitate what you do and say.
	Intentional Communication	I can communicate to share my enjoyment and interests with you.
Emotional Regulation	Sharing & Managing Emotions	I can seek out situations that are fun, invite you to join me, and insist on being part of the action.
	Regulating Challenging Moments	I can make it clear to you that I do not "want" something or do not want "to do" something.
Self-Directed Learning	Understanding Messages	I can listen to you and try to figure out your message.
	Creating New Ideas	I can communicate my preference when you offer several choices or let you know I want something else.

15-16 MONTHS

Language	Gestures & Meanings	I can use symbolic gestures to share ideas with you.
	Sounds & Words	I can use at least 5 different words that mean something to both of us.
Play	Using Actions with Objects	I can use pretend actions with objects that have imagined things from everyday activities.
	Social Sharing with Objects	I can use objects in a silly, playful way and in a way that helps you get things done.
Social Interaction	Social Attention	I can communicate to get your attention and check in with you regularly.
	Intentional Communication	I try to figure out what you mean and keep the interaction going.
Emotional Regulation	Sharing & Managing Emotions	I can stay active and engaged with you in fun situations and in necessary activities.
	Regulating Challenging Moments	I can tolerate you helping me stick with a task, even when I am upset.
Self-Directed Learning	Understanding Messages	I can respond when you talk to me and share my ideas with you.
	Creating New Ideas	I can be productive doing my job and stand my ground with you.



17-18 MONTHS

Language	Gestures & Meanings	I can look at you and use a gesture and word together to tell you what I am thinking.
	Sounds & Words	I can use at least 10 different words that mean something to both of us.
Play	Using Actions with Objects	I can pretend using new actions that you show me or tell me to do.
	Social Sharing with Objects	I can use several objects together to build or create something with you.
Social Interaction	Social Attention	I can hang in and do something with you and monitor what you're paying attention to.
	Intentional Communication	I try to help you know what I mean by adding information to my message.
Emotional Regulation	Sharing & Managing Emotions	I can get motivated or settle down with the help of your words and stay available for learning.
	Regulating Challenging Moments	I can shift attention from something I want to do and engage in a different activity with you.
Self-Directed Learning	Understanding Messages	I can understand words without gestures in familiar situations.
	Creating New Ideas	I notice opportunities for interaction and learning and can get myself involved.

19-20 MONTHS

Language	Gestures & Meanings	I can use my words to share something interesting and to protest something I don't want.
	Sounds & Words	I can use at least 20 words to name people, animals, body parts, objects, actions, and places.
Play	Using Actions with Objects	I can pretend using actions with imagined things from less familiar activities.
	Social Sharing with Objects	I can combine different types of materials to create a play scenario with you.
Social Interaction	Social Attention	I am eager to share my interests and ideas with you.
	Intentional Communication	I can persist in communicating my message to you.
Emotional Regulation	Sharing & Managing Emotions	I can share enjoyment with my words and gestures and stay engaged in the activity with you.
	Regulating Challenging Moments	I can say or do something that helps me manage my emotions and stay focused in a necessary activity.
Self-Directed Learning	Understanding Messages	I can follow simple directions when you ask me to do something.
	Creating New Ideas	I can recognize a problem or challenge and try to figure out what to do.

21-22 MONTHS

Language	Gestures & Meanings	I can learn many new words every week and use them to share ideas with you.
	Sounds & Words	I can use at least 50 words and combine two words to convey different meanings.
Play	Using Actions with Objects	I can combine two different pretend actions with imagined things in a play scenario.
	Social Sharing with Objects	I can tell you about my play scenario and invite you to play with me.
Social Interaction	Social Attention	I can take a few turns sharing my ideas and listening to your ideas.
	Intentional Communication	I can ask you about things that I don't know.
Emotional Regulation	Sharing & Managing Emotions	I can use my words to ask you to help me get motivated or settle down.
	Regulating Challenging Moments	My very upset moments are getting briefer and I can flow with unpleasant or unexpected situations.
Self-Directed Learning	Understanding Messages	I can observe and listen to you to know what I am supposed to do and go along with your plan.
	Creating New Ideas	I can come up a creative idea and let you know my plan.

23-24 MONTHS

Language	Gestures & Meanings	I can use phrases that describe things and request new information.
	Sounds & Words	I can use at least 100 words in phrases that include names, actions, and descriptions.
Play	Using Actions with Objects	I can combine several different pretend actions in a logical sequence.
	Social Sharing with Objects	I can begin to take on a make-believe role in a pretend play scenario with you.
Social Interaction	Social Attention	I can talk with you about a topic I'm interested in like we're having a conversation.
	Intentional Communication	I can let you know how I feel and negotiate when things don't go my way.
Emotional Regulation	Sharing & Managing Emotions	I can use my words to share moments of success with you.
	Regulating Challenging Moments	I can calm myself down, come back to you, and communicate what I want or need.
Self-Directed Learning	Understanding Messages	I can create opportunities to learn about things that interest me in everyday situations.
	Creating New Ideas	I can try out new things and seek out new opportunities for learning.