Tip for using this brochure:

This brochure shows some things children do at different ages.

Look for your child’s age:

How is your child doing?

When in doubt, check it out!

Questions or Concerns?

Talk to your child’s healthcare provider

OR

Call: NH Family Voices
Family To Family Health Information Center
Tel: (603) 271-4525
E-mail: nhfamilyvoices@nhfv.org
Web: www.nhfv.org


Tips for reading the “Info for Families” sections of this brochure:

• Look for words like “should,” “shouldn’t,” “may,” “may not,” and “can.”

• If a child does not do what is “expected” at this age, talk to your child’s healthcare provider.

• There’s no right or wrong way to raise a child.”

Take-Away Tips

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Use this guide to glance at development for a child you care about. Remember, children grow and learn at different rates.

Questions or concerns? Ask -- Don’t wait!

3 Months

Looks at & watches your face 
- Smiles & cuddles
- Cries to show discomfort or fatigue 
- Makes cooing sounds
- Startles at loud noises 
- Brings hands to mouth
- Opens & closes hands
- Moves arms & legs easily
- Lifts head when on tummy for play

6 Months

Begins teething
- Has different cries for different needs
- Looks for objects that drop out of sight
- Bangs two objects together
- Uses tip of thumb & index finger to pick up small objects
- Sits well
- Pulls to stand at furniture
- Crawls on hands & knees
- Plays peek-a-boo
- Waves bye-bye
- Smiles when praised

9 Months

Responds to own name
- Shows anxiety when separated from parent or caregiver
- Smiles at, pats or kisses reflection in mirror
- Looks without squinting
- Shakes head "No"
- Imitates sounds
- Bangs two objects together
- Uses tip of thumb & index finger to pick up small objects
- Sits well
- Pulls to stand at furniture
- Crawls on hands & knees
- Plays peek-a-boo
- Waves bye-bye
- Smiles when praised

12 Months

Says "mama" or "dada"
- Imitates actions and sounds
- Shows affection
- Knows own name
- Points to a few body parts when asked
- Says a few words
- Finger feeds well
- Walks (legs may be wide apart)
- Likes to be in constant sight of a familiar adult
- Points and waves

18 Months

Uses short phrases
- Laughs at silly things, like a bowl on a head
- Points to interesting things and named objects
- Lets you know what he/she wants
- Follows simple directions
- Uses spoon
- Builds tower of three blocks
- Throws a ball
- Walks alone with good balance
- Starts to run
- No safety judgment
- May get frustrated and have tantrums
- Opens doors
- Pretends while playing
- Looks at objects you point to

2 Years

Listens to short stories
- Turns a picture book that is upside down
- Turns pages of a book
- Understands instructions
- Just learning to share toys
- Gives hugs and kisses
- May do the opposite of what is asked
- Uses two-word sentences, pronouns and many words
- Uses a cup with one hand
- Scribbles
- Runs, jumps and walks up and down stairs with help
- Climbs, and kicks a ball
- Aware of others’ feelings

3 Years

Plays with other children
- May develop fears
- Learning to use toilet
- Knows own age and sex
- Knows colors, shapes and opposites
- Speaks in three-word sentences
- Imitates drawing a line or circle
- Opens containers or jars
- Catches and kicks a ball forcefully
- May have difficulty with transitions
- Speaks so that others understand
- May test limits

4 Years

Very independent
- Dresses and undresses
- Shows more social awareness
- Responds to others’ feelings
- Understands and often obeys rules
- Shares
- Plays make-believe
- Asks many questions
- Names colors
- Repeats stories
- Draws faces
- Uses scissors
- Completes a 12-piece interlocking puzzle
- Hops on one foot
- Talks about past events

5 Years

- Plays organized games
- Follows a three-step instruction
- Counts to 10
- Understands the meaning of many words
- Uses complete sentences
- Tells imaginative stories
- Cuts out shapes with scissors
- Copies familiar shapes
- Draws person with 6-8 body parts
- Catches a bounced ball
- Writes letters and own name
- May recognize some words, letters and numbers

Remember:
Place Baby on
Back to Sleep
Belly for Play