

DOWN'S SYNDROME - CHILD DEVELOPMENT

This table gives an outline of the usual development of children with Down's syndrome. Just as with all children there is a great deal of individual variation in the age at which the different skills develop. In the table we show the usual range for some milestones. A few children will have additional health problems which may slow their development. However all will continue to develop at their own pace. You can use the table to find out if your child has particular difficulty in any area which may require extra help.

Area of development	Milestone	Age range		For you to record the age at which your child acquires these skills
		Down's syndrome	Other children	
Gross motor skills (moving around)	Holds head steady in sitting position	3-9m	1-4m	
	Sits alone	6-16m	5-9m	
	Stands alone	12-38m	9-16m	
	Walks alone	13-48m	9-17m	
Fine motor skills and eye hand coordination	Follows object with eyes	1.5-8m	1-3m	
	Reaches out and grasps objects	4-11m	2-6m	
	Passes objects from hand to hand	6-12m	4-8m	
	Builds a tower of two 1" cubes	14-32m	10-19m	
	Copies a circle	36-60m	24-40m	
Communication skills	Babbles "DaDa", "Mama"	7-18m	5-14m	
	Responds to familiar words	10-18m	5-14m	
	First words spoken with meaning	13-36m	10-23m	
	Shows needs by gesture	14-30m	11-19m	
	Two word phrases	18-60m	15-32m	
Personal and social skills	Smiles when talked to	1.5-4m	1-2m	
	Feeds self with biscuit	6-14m	4-10m	
	Drinks from cup	12-23m	9-17m	
	Dry by day	18-50m	14-36m	
	Bowel control	20-60m	16-48m	

Adapted with permission from Cunningham 1988 Down's Syndrome - An Introduction for Parents. Souvenir Press Ltd. Human Horizon Series.