



3 years

shows affection for playmates

uses four- to five-word sentences

2 years

points to object when named

imitates adults (claps after adult claps)

points to interesting objects

18 months

plays pretend ("talks" on toy phone)

uses simple gestures (waves "bye bye")

makes sounds (such as "ma" and "ba")

It's time to change how we view a child's growth.

It's natural to measure your child's height and weight. But you should measure other ways your child is growing, too.

From birth to 5 years, there are milestones your child should reach in terms of how she plays, learns, speaks, and acts. A delay in any of these areas could be a sign of a developmental problem, even autism. The good news is, the earlier it's recognized the more you can do to help your child reach her full potential. Talk with a doctor or nurse about your child's total development.

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Learn the Signs. Act Early.