

# What your child will learn during this stage of development.

## 6 – 12 MONTHS

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### Language & Literacy

#### COMMUNICATION

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- Associates meaning to familiar words
- Says 3 to 6 words with meaning
  - Strings together sounds (ba-ba, da-da)
- Responds to simple verbal requests
  - Stops in response to “no”
  - Responds to familiar words
- Practices sounds in a variety of ways with adults and other children
  - Engages in voice games; makes fast and slow raspberry sounds
  - Squeals to elicit attention
- Imitates spoken words
- Uses a variety of baby sign language or simple gestures to communicate wants and needs
  - Shakes head for “no” and “yes,” waves bye-bye
- Identifies oral vocabulary or signed words for common objects or people
- Uses toys to make noises
- Engages in simple rhymes and fingerplays
  - Plays peekaboo, pat-a-cake

#### LITERACY

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- Enjoys being read to
- Recognizes pictures of familiar people, objects, and actions
- Looks for objects named in books and within the environment
- Shows preference for a certain book
- Attempts to turn pages in board books
- Interacts with a variety of books (e.g., wordless, textured, sound-producing books)

### Mathematical Thinking

- Looks for hidden objects; develops object permanence
  - Tracks and locates objects falling from view
- Begins to remember where things are kept
- Stacks and unstacks objects (e.g., blocks, rings)



## Mathematical Thinking continued

- Shows some understanding of cause and effect
  - Repeatedly drops object, bounces and squeals for attention, pushes button on toy
- Shows basic understanding of schedule of events (e.g., after nap, expects bottle)
- Shows motivation and curiosity by moving toward an object out of reach
- Pays attention to quantities when interacting with objects
  - Communicates “more” and “all gone” when eating
- Participates in adult-initiated movement patterns
- Notices and shows interest in visual and auditory patterns occurring in indoor and outdoor environments
  - Outdoor patterns, such as fence line or visual patterns from clothing, books, textures (e.g., checkered, stripes, animal print)
- Explores different properties of objects (e.g., size, shape, and texture)



## Creative Expression

### MUSIC, MUSICIANS, AND MOVEMENT

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- Begins to show awareness of and appreciation for rhymes and songs
- Claps hands
- Moves body in response to music
- Plays simple musical instruments

### ART AND ARTISTS

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- Begins to show awareness of visual arts
- Holds and uses a large brush to explore paint
- Explores large crayons and markers
- Engages in exploration of natural items to create art (e.g., nature collages, paints with leaves or flowers)
- Engages in multisensory art activities; explores properties of art media (e.g., paint, collage materials)

### DRAMATIC PLAY

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- Uses a variety of household objects in a variety of ways



## Social-Emotional Learning

### SELF-HELP SKILLS

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- Uses physical behavior (e.g., pulling up) to establish closeness
- Becomes upset if a toy or other object is taken away
- Self-feeds
  - Feeds self finger foods
  - Holds own bottle

## Social-Emotional Learning continued

### SELF-HELP SKILLS CONTINUED

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- Begins to explore table foods
- Looks to caregiver for support and encouragement when exploring new materials
- Plays independently for a short time
- Uses a sippy cup independently
- Responds to adult during routines (e.g., diapering, feeding, eating)
- Participates in hand washing
- Eats food from a spoon

### SOCIAL INTERACTION

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- Notices when the expected does not happen
- Communicates emotions with purpose and intent using words and gestures
  - Shows affection by giving a hug
- Participates and assists in common routines
  - Raises arms for diaper change
- Participates in games of imitation

## Wellness

### GROSS MOTOR SKILLS AND BALANCE

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- Pulls self up to stand
  - Sits without support
  - Pushes self into a sitting position
- Bears weight in standing position
- Stands unaided
- Walks with support
- Cruises, using furniture
- Helps with getting dressed (e.g., pushing hands into sleeves)
- Crawls
  - Crawls forward with stomach on floor
  - Rocks on hands and knees
- Rolls over independently



## Wellness continued

### FINE MOTOR SKILLS

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- Picks up objects with a pincer grasp (thumb and forefinger)
- Continues to hold one small object when handed another
- Points
- Retrieves dropped objects
- Puts objects into a container
- Reaches and grasps toys
- Uses fingers and palms to hold objects
- Transfers objects from one hand to the other
- Holds objects with both hands
- Holds and releases objects using both hands
- Strikes objects together
- Takes objects out of large-mouth containers