



Social Skills Milestones

These milestones are provided as examples of what an average child might accomplish within various age brackets. This is only meant as a guide. If you have concerns, contact your child's pediatrician or schedule a free screening with PhysioKids.

Birth to 3 months:

- Smiles spontaneously
- Quiets when picked up
- Shows awareness of people

3 to 6 months:

- Recognizes strangers or unfamiliar people
- Voices pleasure and displeasure
- Participates in social turn taking with familiar adults

6-9 months:

- Pays attention to own name
- Plays "Peek-a-Boo"
- Participates in mirror play

9-12 months:

- Responds to "no"
- Copies simple actions of others
- Repeats performance if laughed at

1 - 1½ years olds:

- Shows interest in other children
- Recognizes self in mirror or picture

1 ½ - 2 years old:

- Refers to self by name
- Plays by self; initiates own play
- Imitates adult behaviors in play
- Helps put things away
- Shows pride in actions

2-3 years old:

- Plays near other children
- Defends own possessions
- Uses objects symbolically
- Participates in group activities
- Knows gender
- Shows sense of ownership
- Waits turn
- Works problem out with less action, more reasoning

3-4 years old:

- Shows sympathy
- Still engages in associative play but begins true give and take, cooperative play
- Begins to spontaneously offer things to others

4 - 5 years old:

- Wants to please friends
- Shows greater ability to control intense feelings like fear or anger
- Shows delightful, silly sense of humor