

Fine Motor Skills

These are to be considered approximations. *All children develop differently, and at their own individual rate.* If your child is *significantly* delayed in meeting developmental milestones, discuss this with your pediatrician and/or contact educational experts in your community and inquire about the need for further evaluation.

Age: 1-0 to 1-6

- Unwraps loosely-wrapped, small objects
- Attempts to build tower
- Builds tower with 2-5 blocks
- Makes whole arm strokes which may form an arc and go off page
- Controls drooling
- Lifts glass or cup from table to drink
- Returns glass to table after drinking
- Holds glass with both hands to drink without aid
- Chews and swallows semi-solid food
- Chews and swallows solid food
- Takes spoon filled with food from plate to mouth with some spilling
- Manipulates spoon in plate to scoop food
- Sucks from a straw
- Cooperates in undressing
- Removes socks
- Removes shoes
- Removes coat
- Unties bow
- Unsnaps front
- Dries hands with assistance

Age: 2-0

- Nests or stacks objects graduated in size
- Turns knobs (TV, radio, toy)
- Turns door knobs to open door
- Makes stirring movement
- Cuts dough to soft clay with cookie cutter
- Builds tower with 6-9 blocks
- Scribbles-seldom goes off page
- Holds pencil/crayon with fingers-not correctly, but not with fist
- Imitates or copies circle, vertical line, horizontal line, wide letter V
- Places scissors on fingers and holds comfortably/correctly
- Opens and closes scissors
- Paints with some wrist action or scrubbing movement
- Regards process as more important than end product
- Experiments with vertical and horizontal lines, dots and circular movements
- Manipulates clay
- Pounds, hitting against clay or hitting clay against table
- Squeezes clay with fingers and hands
- Pulls clay apart

Age: 3-0

Folds paper
Strings 12 mm (1/2 inch) beads
Builds tower with 9 blocks
Completes simple geometric inset puzzle
Attempts to draw a ball or apple when demonstrated
Imitates or copies cross, square, triangle, rectangle
Cuts 13 cm (5 inch) piece of paper in two pieces
Gives names to pictures which may not be readily understandable to others
Makes flat round cakes with clay
Polls ropes with clay
Makes balls with clay

Age: 3-6

Winds up toy
Unscrews and screws 25 mm (1 inch) lid
Sorts dissimilar objects
Copies models printed including a cross, square, triangle and rectangle

Age: 4-6

Completes geometric inset puzzle with 6-10 pieces

Age: 5-0

Folds paper diagonally and creases it
Opens lock with a key
Sews through holes in sewing cards
Opens and closes large safety pin
Completes geometric inset puzzle with 11-15 pieces
Completes non-inset puzzle with 12 or fewer pieces
Grasps pencil correctly
Colors apple staying within the lines
Traces letters
Makes circles between writing lines
Makes vertical lines between writing lines
Draws a person with 4-6 recognizable, distinct body parts
Cuts 13 cm (5 inch) circle within 12 mm (1/2 inch) in 35 seconds
Cuts 13 cm (5 inch) circle within 6 mm (1/4 inch) in 35 seconds
Cuts 13 cm (5 inch) curving line within 6 mm (1/4 inch) in 35 seconds
Evaluates or criticizes own painting
Makes refined objects