

Normal Development: 9 Months Old

Here's what you might see your baby doing between the ages of 9 and 12 months.

Daily Activities

- Continues to enjoy banging, waving, and throwing toys.
- Scrutinizes toys and other objects.
- Becomes absorbed in toys and games.
- Explores food with fingers.
- Initiates play.

Motor Skills

- Goes from sitting to lying position unassisted.
- May pull self to standing position.
- Stands holding on to furniture.
- Tries to move one foot in front of the other when held upright.
- May try to crawl up stairs.
- May begin to walk with assistance.

Language Development

- Imitates the rising and falling sounds of adult conversation.
- Imitates more speech sounds, but does not yet understand them.
- Repeats sounds again and again.
- May begin to say "mama" or "dada" appropriately.

Reading tips

- Play frequently with your baby. Talk, sing, recite rhymes, and do finger plays. This helps your baby learn spoken language and builds a strong foundation for reading.
- Talk with your baby, making eye contact. Allow time for your baby to respond before moving on to the next idea.
- Give your baby board books or soft books to look at, chew on, or bang on the table.
- Look at picture books with your baby and name the objects that he sees. Say things like "See the baby!" or "Look at the puppy!"
- Snuggle with your baby on your lap and read aloud to him. He may not understand the story, but he will love to hear the sound of your voice and the rhythm of the language.

Emotional and Behavioral Development

- Continues to resist doing what does not want to do.
- Begins trying to imitate some parent behaviors.
- Loves showing off for family audience.
- May cry when parent leaves the room.
- May resist diapering.