



Child Development Milestones – 9 to 12 years

The majority of children will achieve these milestones by the time they turn 9 to 12 years. All children develop at different rates. Some children are slower than others (developmentally delayed) but catch up with time. Other children, however, may have an underlying problem that causes their delayed development, and they may not catch up. It is important for these children to get as much treatment (early intervention) as possible. So if you are concerned about any aspect of your child's development, see your child health nurse or doctor for help without delay. If in doubt, it is better to have your concerns checked than to 'wait and see'.

✓ An average child	✓ Signs of possible problems
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Gross motor

Children are becoming increasingly skilled with sports. They usually:	Problems may include negative reactions to physical activities, including:
<input type="checkbox"/> Enjoy team games (soccer, football, cricket, tennis, etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/> Avoidance of sports in general
<input type="checkbox"/> Are able to swim	<input type="checkbox"/> Avoidance of team sports
<input type="checkbox"/> Show increased body awareness and self-perception	<input type="checkbox"/> Feelings of being 'bad' or 'hopeless' at physical activities
<input type="checkbox"/> Show increased awareness of own physical skills and how they appear to others	<input type="checkbox"/> Frustration and poor self-confidence
	<input type="checkbox"/> Low levels of self-perception regarding physical ability and appearance
	<input type="checkbox"/> Decreased levels of endurance and fitness

Fine motor

This is the time for perfecting and refining skills. With most children:	
<input type="checkbox"/> Adult-type tools can be used, such as saws and hammers. Children can construct simple structures with wood and sew basic garments.	<input type="checkbox"/> Difficulty with construction and fine manipulative work
<input type="checkbox"/> Handwriting becomes more fluid, automatic and less of an effort	<input type="checkbox"/> Handwriting isn't fluid and automatic
<input type="checkbox"/> Writing speed increases	<input type="checkbox"/> Difficulty keeping up with written demands in class
<input type="checkbox"/> Writing can occur well without ruled lines	<input type="checkbox"/> Relies heavily on structures/lines for setting-out written work
	<input type="checkbox"/> Easily gets tired when completing a fine motor or writing task

Talking and understanding

<input type="checkbox"/> Children at this age use and understand very complex language.	<input type="checkbox"/> Concerns by teachers, parents, relatives or the child themselves should be referred to a specialist.
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Social

<input type="checkbox"/> Able to resolve social problems, like fights with friends and siblings	<input type="checkbox"/> Little to no capacity to see things from another's point of view
<input type="checkbox"/> Ability to understand other people's points of view	<input type="checkbox"/> Poorly developed idea of right and wrong (still self-centred and toddler-like)
<input type="checkbox"/> Sense of what is important is influenced by school and friends	<input type="checkbox"/> Poor ability to see how they can help in a problem situation
	<input type="checkbox"/> Lack of compromise and flexibility

Intellectual

<input type="checkbox"/> The intellectual standard of children of this age is defined by the school curriculum.	
<input type="checkbox"/> Concerns by teachers, parents, relatives or the child themselves should be referred to a specialist.	

If you have any concerns about your child's development, see your child health nurse or GP.
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