

Developmental Profiles by Age

We're excited to share with you some of the major milestones children go through as they develop. These milestones are just some of the things many children are learning to do at certain ages, and our programs are developed to help your child achieve them. But as we all know, every child is unique, with their own interests and personality. And every child grows at their own pace, in their own way—and that's what makes your child special. If you want a glimpse into the framework we've used to build our curriculum and the range of skills your child is developing as they are growing, you can learn more about them [here](#).

Click on your child's age group to learn more.



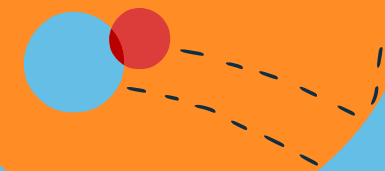
INFANTS

(0-1 year old)



TODDLERS

(1-2 years old)



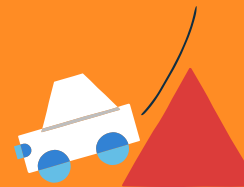
DISCOVERY PRESCHOOL

(2 years old)



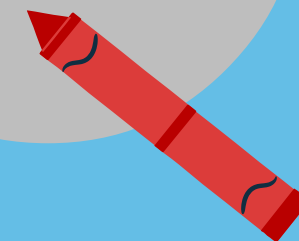
PRESCHOOL

(3 years old)



PRE-K AND TRANSITIONAL KINDERGARTEN

(4 years old)



Developmental Profiles by Age

Infants (0–12 months)

The table below describes some of the skills you might see in your child as they learn and grow, aligned to the educational standards in each of our KinderCare Education curricular developmental domains. Remember that it takes time to develop these skills, and your child will develop at their own pace!



Cognitive Development

- Imitates simple actions of others
- Distinguishes among familiar and unfamiliar people, objects, or places
- Uses senses to explore the environment
- Tries to elicit responses from others



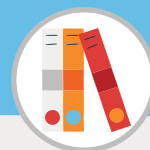
Creative Expression

- Expresses needs through movement
- Attends to bright or contrasting colors (primary colors, black and white)
- Explores different textures
- Attends to music and is often calmed by it
- Explores making noises with toy instruments



Executive Function

- Attends to people and objects for brief periods
- Demonstrates ability to find objects in familiar locations
- Completes simple tasks with a goal in mind
- Tries a variety of approaches to meet needs
- Demonstrates ability to control impulses some of the time



Language and Literacy

- Communicates needs, wants, or interests using sounds and gestures
- Responds to sounds and the rhythm of language
- Expresses self through babbling or first words
- Shows interest in back and-forth communication
- Begins to understand language by listening, observing, and engaging



Physical Development and Wellness

- Lifts and turns head
- Rolls over
- Crawls or scoots
- Sits independently
- Displays developing eye-hand coordination
- Walks with support
- Displays coordinated hand movements



Social and Emotional Development

- Recognizes that familiar adults will meet basic needs
- Engages in some solitary play
- Forms attachments to familiar adults
- Shows pleasure around and interacts with other children
- Begins to manage emotions with support and reassurance from a familiar adult

Developmental Profiles by Age

Toddlers (12–24 months)

The table below describes some of the skills you might see in your child as they learn and grow, aligned to the educational standards in each of our KinderCare Education curricular developmental domains. Remember that it takes time to develop these skills, and your child will develop at their own pace!



Cognitive Development

- Engages in pretend play with objects
- Imitates actions of others
- Shows interest in verbal counting
- Shows curiosity about the environment and explores new uses for familiar objects
- Sorts and classifies objects with assistance



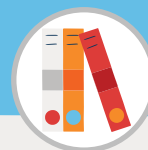
Creative Expression

- Attends to displays of visual art
- Expresses self through movement
- May pretend to be someone other than self during play
- Explores and experiments with visual arts tools to create artwork
- Expresses self through music



Executive Function

- Attends to people or tasks for brief periods
- Persists at activities to meet goals and may seek assistance after several attempts
- Demonstrates ability to control impulses some of the time
- Takes apart simple objects and puts them back together
- Uses simple strategies to accomplish tasks, meet needs, and solve simple problems



Language and Literacy

- Responds to simple questions and demonstrates understanding the questions
- Demonstrates understanding of familiar words in home language
- Expresses needs, wants, and interests using beginning words
- Explores books and print, and imitates reading behaviors
- Makes simple marks and scribbles on paper



Physical Development and Wellness

- Shows interest in snacks, mealtimes, and different types of food
- Demonstrates increasing competence in coordinating body movements
- Displays increasing eye-hand coordination
- Shows awareness of familiar care routines and participates in them
- Runs with basic control and coordination



Social and Emotional Development

- Establishes and seeks to maintain relationships with preferred adults
- Participates in individualized care and routines, with guidance
- Forms and maintains relationships with some children
- Begins to manage emotions

Developmental Profiles by Age

Discovery Preschool (24–36 months)

The table below describes some of the skills you might see in your child as they learn and grow, aligned to the educational standards in each of our KinderCare Education curricular developmental domains. Remember that it takes time to develop these skills, and your child will develop at their own pace!



Cognitive Development

- Counts while touching each object and saying the number aloud
- Begins to match and group things that are the same
- Demonstrates awareness of time
- Identifies the number of objects in a small set
- Recognizes and copies simple patterns with assistance



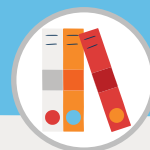
Creative Expression

- Expresses self and feelings through creative movement
- Uses objects and dress-up clothing during pretend play
- Shows awareness of different types of music through movement, such as moving to a beat or tempo
- Creates art using a variety of art materials
- Repeats simple melodies and rhythm patterns



Executive Function

- Demonstrates ability to control impulses with guidance
- Completes simple two-step child- or adult-initiated tasks
- Complies with simple rules
- Tries a few different strategies to accomplish a task or solve a simple problem before seeking assistance
- Is aware of feelings of others and responds appropriately



Language and Literacy

- Initiates and participates in conversations
- Asks questions about experiences to demonstrate understanding and to gain information
- Identifies some letters in own name
- Demonstrates understanding of simple directions
- Writes own name using scribbles, zigzags, loops and/or letter-like forms



Physical Development and Wellness

- Demonstrates balance during simple movement
- Demonstrates strength and stamina appropriate to age
- Displays advancing eye-hand coordination
- Demonstrates jumping skills
- Demonstrates increasing competence in throwing skills
- Participates in self-care routines and shows desire to perform some routines independently



Social and Emotional Development

- Participates in routines and can follow simple rules
- Uses language to express self and negotiate desires
- Demonstrates ability to resolve conflicts, with guidance
- Is confident of own abilities and seeks out more challenges
- Manages some emotions independently

Developmental Profiles by Age

Preschool

The table below describes some of the skills you might see in your child as they learn and grow, aligned to the educational standards in each of our KinderCare Education curricular developmental domains. Remember that it takes time to develop these skills, and your child will develop at their own pace!



Cognitive Development

- Arranges objects in order by size, length, or height
- Can describe a few ways people, objects, or places are the same or different
- Engages in pretend play
- Connects number words and numerals to the quantities they represent
- Recognizes and creates simple patterns
- Creates simple graphs and charts that represent information



Creative Expression

- Takes on pretend roles during simple dramatic play and uses costumes
- Makes different types of lines (straight, curved) and shapes (squares, circles)
- Is aware of own body while moving creatively in same space as others
- Expresses self, ideas, and feelings through music
- Shows awareness of moving to a tempo, beat, or musical style



Executive Function

- Demonstrates simple planning
- Follows multi-step rules
- Attends to people or tasks for several minutes, ignoring some distractions
- Persists at simple activities and tasks
- Can control some impulses and can delay gratification for brief periods
- Can explore a few options before making a choice



Language and Literacy

- Asks questions during conversations that demonstrate understanding
- Can predict what happens next in books
- Shows interest in reading
- Names simple shapes, objects, and colors
- Can name some letters and numerals
- Writes own name using some letter-like forms and conventional letters



Physical Development and Wellness

- Walks with balance and confidence
- Jumps with increasing proficiency
- Demonstrates balance
- Demonstrates control of hands and fingers
- Demonstrates some throwing skills
- Demonstrates some independence with self-care skills and routines
- Demonstrates an understanding of healthy food choices



Social and Emotional Development

- Seeks out interactions with familiar adults
- Can express preferences and opinions appropriately
- Plays with many children, but may have stronger relationships with certain children
- Shares, takes turns, and is respectful of others
- Begins to demonstrate acceptance of similarities and differences among people
- Begins to use words to resolve conflicts
- Is aware of feelings of others and responds appropriately

The table below describes some of the skills you might see in your child as they learn and grow, aligned to the educational standards in each of our KinderCare Education curricular developmental domains. Remember that it takes time to develop these skills, and your child will develop at their own pace!



Cognitive Development

- Can separate fantasy from reality most of the time
- Recognizes, extends, copies, and creates simple patterns
- Can describe how people, objects, and places, are the same or different
- Sorts and classifies objects based on more than one attribute
- Identifies positions using ordinal numbers first through tenth
- Helps plan and conduct experiments



Creative Expression

- Uses props during dramatic play
- Makes different types of lines and shapes to create detailed art
- Moves to a tempo, beat, and/or style of music
- Repeats more complex melodies and rhythm patterns
- Participates in group music experiences, including listening to and commenting on music
- Shows coordination while moving creatively with others



Executive Function

- Can plan multi-step tasks in groups
- Follows complex rules independently
- Attends to people or tasks for long periods of time and can refocus if interrupted
- Persists at and completes challenging activities independently
- Demonstrates flexible thinking and a beginning ability to consider other points of view
- Demonstrates increasing self control and delay of gratification



Language and Literacy

- Names simple shapes, objects, and colors
- Names some or all letters and numerals out of sequence
- Asks increasingly complex questions
- Understands the relationship between pictures and text and can make reasonable predictions
- Recognizes some frequently seen words in and out of context
- Writes own name and many uppercase and lowercase letters



Physical Development and Wellness

- Controls hands and fingers to perform tasks with precision
- Runs with proficiency
- Demonstrates balance during complex movement
- Hops with proficiency
- Demonstrates kicking skills
- Demonstrates independence with self-care skills and routines
- Makes healthy food choices with support



Social and Emotional Development

- Seeks out interactions with a variety of adults
- Consistently demonstrates acceptance of similarities and differences among people
- Is confident of own abilities
- Maintains some close relationships with other children
- Participates in routines and follows rules
- Demonstrates ability to resolve conflicts using words
- Shows empathy and understanding for others