

Social Communication Milestones

Social development is linked to so many other areas of development. Every child is different however we have some general milestones to help you know what to expect for your child.

6 Months



Your child learns to ...

- Smile
- May try to make eye contact with caregiver
- Awareness of familiar and unfamiliar people develops
- Likes interacting
- Copies some movements and facial expressions (e.g., smile)
- Responds to name

Age 1



Your child learns to ...

- Interaction develops (e.g., makes noises to get your attention or point)
- Enjoys people games (e.g., peek-a-boo)
- Copies sounds and gestures
- Starts to follow simple instructions

Age 2



Your child learns to ...

- Copies others
- Begins to socialise and shows an interest in others other than caregivers
- Plays alongside others (parallel play)
- Follows simple instructions
- Shows joint attention (e.g., pointing at a picture in a book then looking at the caregiver to make sure they see it too)
- May have temper tantrums and show defiant behaviour

Age 3



Your child learns to ...

- Seeks out others (associative play) and is learning to take turns in games
- Uses imagination more (pretend play) but may confuse real and make believe
- Starts to understand emotions
- Can have a conversation but may find it tricky to take turns or stay on topic
- Might feel uneasy with changes in routine
- Follows instructions with 2-3 steps



If you have any concerns regarding your child's social communication skills speak to your Child Health Nurse, GP or a health professional. Alternatively, you can contact the team at CliniKids on (08) 6319 1133 or clinkids@telethonkids.org.au