

ECE 110-L

## Fine Motor Developmental Milestones: Birth to 8-Years-Old

### **A child birth to 3-months-old typically can:**

- Reflexively grasps objects
- Stare at bright objects and follow them with his eyes
- Move her arms together and apart
- Bring her hands to his mouth, and possibly suck on his own hands or fingers
- Swats unintentionally at objects

### **A child 3- to 6-months-old typically can:**

- Intentionally grasps objects
- Reach for things
- Grab onto objects within her reach
- Grasp and pull objects toward their body
- Holds and shakes toys, swings at dangling toys
- Roll over to explore and get to objects

### **A child 6- to 12-months-old typically can:**

- Pass objects from one hand to the other hand
- Reach, grab, and put objects in her mouth
- Pinch small objects (e.g. cheerios) with thumb and pointer finger -- pincer grasp
- Drop and pick up toys
- Bang two objects together
- Let go of objects on purpose
- Put things into containers (with large openings) and take them out again
- Bite and chew toys
- Hold a spoon (but not yet feed herself)
- Wave hello or goodbye

### **A 12- to 18-month-old-child typically can:**

- Build a tower using 2 blocks
- Use her hands together to hold a toy at the middle of her body
- Scribble with a crayon
- Point with his pointer finger
- Use her tongue well to move food from side to side in the mouth
- Lose a bit of food or saliva out of the mouth while chewing
- Bite foods well

### **An 18-month to 2-year-old child typically can:**

- Build a tower with 4-6 blocks
- Put 4 rings on a stick
- Put large pegs in a pegboard

- Turn pages of a book, 2 or 3 at a time
- Scribbles
- Turn knobs
- Paint on paper using her whole arm to move the paintbrush
- Imitate you drawing a vertical line ( | ) and a circle (it may not be accurate)
- Begin to string large beads
- Start to hold a crayon with her fingers, usually with her hand at the top of the crayon
- Put large shapes into a shape sorter

**A child 2- to 3-years-old typically can:**

- Fold paper in half
- Draw straight lines and circles
- Turn single pages in a book
- Snip the edges of paper with scissors (by 30 months)
- Hold crayons using the thumb and fingers
- Use one hand more often than the other for most activities
- Build a tower of up to 9 large blocks
- Put together large linking blocks, such as Megablocks
- String ½ inch sized beads
- Imitate you drawing a cross
- Paint with some wrist action, makes dots, lines, circular strokes
- Roll, pounds, squeezes, and pulls playdough

**A child 3- to 4-years-old typically can:**

- Builds tower of 9-10 small blocks
- Copies circle
- Imitates cross
- Uses playdough to make balls, snakes, cookies, etc.
- Cuts across a piece of paper (by 3 years)
- Uses non-dominant hand to assist and stabilize the use of objects
- Imitates you drawing a square
- Starts to hold a crayon or pencil with a mature tripod grasp (like an adult)
- Cuts across a piece of paper
- Starts to cut along a straight line

**A child 4- to 5-years-old typically can:**

- Cuts on a line continuously
- Copies cross
- Copies square
- Writes name
- Writes numbers 1-5
- Copies letters
- Handedness is well established

- Draws a person with 2 to 4 body parts
- Starts to use one hand consistently for fine motor tasks
- Cuts along a straight line with scissors
- Starts to cut along a curved line, like a circle
- Draws a cross by herself (+)
- Begins to draw diagonal lines, like in a triangle
- Starts to color inside the lines of a picture
- Starts to draw pictures that are recognizable
- Builds things with smaller linking blocks, such as Duplo or Lego
- Starts to learn to print some capital letters

**A child 5- to 6-years-old typically can:**

- Cuts out simple shapes
- Copies a triangle
- Colors within lines
- Uses a 3 fingered grasp of pencil and uses fingers to generate movement
- Pastes and glues appropriately
- Draw basic pictures
- Uses one hand consistently for fine motor tasks
- Cuts out art projects, staying on the line

**A child 6- to 8-years-old typically can:**

- Draws pictures that are recognizable
- Forms most letters and numbers correctly
- Writes consistently on the lines
- Demonstrates controlled pencil movement
- Learns to print words
- Good endurance for writing
- Can build Lego, K'nex and other blocks independently
- Prints neatly within the lines
- Maintains legibility of handwriting for entirety of a story

Adapted from:

<https://childdevelopment.com.au/resources/child-development-charts/fine-motor-developmental-chart/>

<http://www.kamloopschildrenstherapy.org/fine-motor-skills-preschool-milestones>

<http://www.kamloopschildrenstherapy.org/fine-motor-skills-school-milestones>

<http://www.kamloopschildrenstherapy.org/fine-motor-skills-toddler-milestones>

<https://childdevelopment.com.au/resources/child-development-charts/fine-motor-developmental-chart/>

<http://www.kamloopschildrenstherapy.org/fine-motor-skills-infant-milestones>