The second year is a delightful time for parents and children. Your baby is developing a personality and rewards your time together with laughter, funny faces, and affectionate hugs. First steps and first words are exciting family events.

Physical development
- weight: 17-30 pounds
- height: 27-35 inches
- crawls well
- stands alone, sits down
- gestures or points to indicate wants
- likes to push, pull, and dump things
- pulls off hat, socks, and mittens
- turns pages in a book
- stacks 2 blocks
- likes to poke, twist, and squeeze
- enjoys flushing toilets and closing doors
- enjoys carrying small objects while walking, often one in each hand
- holds crayon and scribbles, but with little control
- waves bye-bye and claps hands
- walks without help
- enjoys holding spoon when eating, but experiences difficulty in getting spoon into mouth
- rolls a ball to adult on request

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Mental development

- says 8-20 words you can understand
- looks at person talking to him or her
- says “Hi” or “Bye” if reminded
- uses expressions like “Oh-oh”
- asks for something by pointing or using one word
- identifies object in a book
- plays peek-a-boo
- looks for objects that are hidden or out of sight
- understands and follows simple one-step directions
- likes to take things apart

Social and emotional development

- becomes upset when separated from parent
- likes to hand objects to others
- plays alone on floor with toys
- recognizes self in mirror or pictures
- enjoys being held and read to
- imitates others especially by coughing, sneezing, or making animal sounds
- enjoys an audience and applause

Toys

- nesting cups
- bath toys, small boat
- soft, huggable dolls (large)
- large animal pictures
- objects to match
- large, plastic blocks
- musical records or tapes
- soft balls of different sizes
- push cart, dump truck
- teddy bear
- plastic jar with lid; lids and containers
- toy telephone

Books

Books for parents
Your Baby and Child, From Birth to Age Five, Penelope Leach
Caring for Your Baby & Young Child, Birth to Age Five, American Academy of Pediatrics, Steven P. Shevlov, ed.

Books for children
Baby! Talk!, Penny Gentieu
Baby’s Colors, Neil Ricklen
Baby’s First Words, Lars Wik
Farm Animals, Phoebe Dunn
Goodnight Moon, Margaret Wise Brown
Moo, Baa, La La La, Sandra Boynton

A word on development

Your child is unique. His or her learning and growth rates differ from other children the same age. If, however, your child is unable to do many of the skills listed for this age group, you may wish to talk to an early childhood specialist. You are the best person to notice developmental problems, if any, because of the time you spend with your child. If your child has special needs, early help can make a difference. If you have questions about your child’s development or want to have your child assessed, contact:

- Your pediatrician or health care professional
- Area Education Agency—Early Childhood Special Education Department

Contact your county Extension office to obtain other publications about children, parenting, and family life. Also visit the ISU Extension Website at http://www.extension.iastate.edu.

The developmental information provided in this bulletin has been compiled from a variety of professional resources to help you understand your child’s overall growth. It is not a standardized measurement tool.