

# Sequence of Infant Development and Feeding Skills

Baby's Approximate Age	Developmental Skills		Baby Can:
	Mouth Patterns	Hand and Body Control	
Birth through 5 months	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Sucking/swallowing reflex</li> <li>❖ Tongue thrust reflex</li> <li>❖ Poor lip closure</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Poor control of head, neck, trunk</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Swallow liquids but pushes most solid objects from the mouth</li> </ul>
4 months through 6 months	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Draws in lower lip as spoon is removed from mouth</li> <li>❖ Up and down movement</li> <li>❖ Immediately transfers food from front to back of tongue to swallow</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Sits with support</li> <li>❖ Good head control</li> <li>❖ Uses whole hand to grasp objects (palmer grasp)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Take in a spoonful of pureed or strained food and swallow it without choking</li> <li>❖ Control the position of food in the mouth</li> </ul>
5 months through 9 months	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Up and down munching movement</li> <li>❖ Positions food between jaws for chewing</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Begins to sit alone, unsupported</li> <li>❖ Begins to use thumb and index finger to pick up objects (pincer grasp)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Begin to eat mashed foods</li> <li>❖ Eat from a spoon easily</li> </ul>
8 months through 11 months	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Complete side-to-side tongue movement</li> <li>❖ Begins to curve lips around rim of cup</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Sits alone easily</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Begin to eat ground or finely chopped food</li> <li>❖ Begin to feed self with hands</li> <li>❖ Drink from a cup</li> </ul>
10 months through 11 months	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Rotary chewing (grinding)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Begins to put spoon in mouth</li> <li>❖ Begins to hold cup</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Eat chopped food, small pieces of soft, cooked food</li> </ul>

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