

GROSS MOTOR MILESTONES



WHAT ARE GROSS MOTOR SKILLS?

- Gross motor skills are the large movements coordinated by the brain and large muscle groups such as arms, legs, and trunk.
- Examples of gross motor skills: crawling, walking, running, jumping
- Gross motor skills allow us to explore our environment.



GROSS MOTOR SKILLS

BIRTH-1 YEAR

- Raises head and trunk during tummy time for 30 seconds: 1-3 months
- Rolling from stomach to back: 4 months
- Rolling from back to stomach: 5 months
- Independent prop sitting: 5 months
- Independent upright sitting: 6-7 months
- Belly crawling: 8-9 months
- Crawling on hands and knees: 9-10 months
- Standing at stable surface and walking along furniture: 10 months
- Independent walking: 12-15 months



GROSS MOTOR SKILLS

1-2 YEARS

- Crawling up stairs: 14-15 months
- Crawling down stairs: 15-16 months
- Walking up stairs with 1 hand support: 15-16 months
- Walking backwards: 18 months
- Walking down stairs with 1 hand support: 19-20 months
- Running: 18-24 months
- Walking sideways: 21-22 months
- Walking up stairs independent (one or both feet on each step): 23-24 months
- Jumping on 2 feet forward 4 inches, up 2 inches, down from a height of 6 inches: 19-24 months
- Kicking a ball: 19-24 months
- Tandem stance: 19-24 months



GROSS MOTOR SKILLS

2-3 YEARS

- Walking down stairs independently (one or both feet on each step): 24-25 months
- Throws tennis ball 7 feet forward: 25-30 months
- Walking up stairs independently placing only one foot on each step: 31-36 months
- Jumping on 2 feet forward 24 inches, over obstacles 2 inches high, down from a height of 18 inches: 31-36 months
- Balances on one foot for 3 seconds: 31-36 months
- Catches a ball thrown from 5 feet away: 31-36 months
- Pedals tricycle: 31-36 months



GROSS MOTOR SKILLS

3-6 YEARS

- Runs 45 feet in 6 seconds or less with mature form: 37-42 months
- Walking down stairs independently placing only one foot on each step: 43-48 months
- Hopping on one foot: 43-48 months
- Gallop: 49-54
- Jumping on 2 feet forward 36 inches, over obstacles 10 inches high, down from a height of 24 inches: 49-60 months
- Balances on one foot for 10 seconds: 55-60 months
- Hops 5 times consecutively: 55-60 months
- Completes 3 sit-ups: 55-60 months
- Completes 8 push-ups: 61-72 months
- Skipping: 61-72 months



RED FLAGS



BY AGE 8 MONTHS, CHILD CANNOT:

- Elevate head or trunk during tummy time
- Roll from back to stomach, or stomach to back
- Sit independently for at least 60 seconds

BY AGE 12 MONTHS, CHILD CANNOT:

- Crawl on hands and knees
- Pull up into standing independently at a stable surface, such as a couch or coffee table
- Accept weight onto legs when held by an adult
- Maintain independent standing at a stable surface, such as a couch or coffee table

BY AGE 18 MONTHS, CHILD CANNOT:

- Stand independently
- Walk independently

BY AGE 2, CHILD CANNOT:

- Crawl up or down stairs
- Walk up or down stairs with hand support from adult or rail
- Run
- Throw a ball

BY AGE 3, CHILD CANNOT:

- Hop on one foot
- Jump on 2 feet forward or up or down from an object independently
- Throw a ball 10 feet forward with opposite arm & leg movement
- Catch a ball using only hands
- Walk up or down stairs without hand support from adult or rail
- Pedal a tricycle
- Balance on one foot for any period of time

WHO CAN HELP?



If your child is not progressing gross motor skills at an age-appropriate rate, you should consult with your pediatrician and a pediatric physical therapist. A pediatric physical therapist can help to determine the underlying causes of your child's delay, and will provide individualized interventions to address those limitations.

The majority of physical therapists graduating today are earning a Doctorate in Physical Therapy (DPT). Following graduation, physical therapists are required to pass a board exam, and are also licensed by the state in which they practice.

HOW TO PROMOTE GROSS MOTOR SKILLS AT HOME

- ✓ Limit time spent in jumpers, bouncers, walkers, etc., as these can impact a child's strength and gross motor development
- ✓ Allow infants to spend time playing on the floor (with supervision of course!)
- ✓ Expose children to a wide variety of movements, textures, surfaces and gross motor experiences



Folio, M, Rhonda, and Rebecca R. Fewell. Peabody Motor Development Chart. Austin: PRO-ED, 2002. Print.
Gerber, R. Jason, Timothy Wilks, & Christine Erdie Lena. "Developmental Milestones: Motor Development." Pediatrics in Review 31.267 (2010)
Children's Health Services. The "Red Flag" Early Intervention Referral Guide for Children 0-5 Years. Queensland Health Services, 2010. Web. 27 Jan. 2014.