Your Child’s Developmental Important Milestones: (8 Months - 12 Month)

Social and Emotional

- □ Shyness or anxious with strangers
- □ Cries when mother or father leaves
- □ Enjoys imitating people in his play
- □ Shows specific preference for certain people and toys
- □ Test parental response to his actions during feeding
- □ Test parental response to his behavior
- □ May be fearful in some situations
- □ Prefers mothers and/or regular caregivers over all others
- □ Finger-feed himself/herself
- □ Extends arm or leg to help with being dressed

Cognitive

- □ Explores objects in many different ways (shaking, banging, throwing, dropping)
- □ Finds hidden objects easily
- □ Looks at correct picture when the image is named
- □ Imitates gestures
- □ Begins to use objects correctly (drinking from cup, brushing hair, dialing phone, listening to receiver)

Language

- □ Pays increasing attention to speech
- □ Responds to simple verbal requests
- □ Responds to “no”
- □ Uses simple gestures, such as shaking head for “no”
- □ Babbles with inflection(changes in tones)
- □ Says “Dada” and “Mama”
- □ Uses exclamations, such as “Uh-Oh”
- □ Tries to imitate words

Movement

- □ Reaches sitting position without assistance
- □ Crawls forward on belly
- □ Assumes hands-and-knees position
- □ Creeps on hands and knees
- □ Gets from sitting to crawling or prone (lying on stomach) position
- □ Pulls self up to stand
- Walks holding onto furniture
- Stands momentarily without support
- May walk two or three steps without support

**Hands and Fingers Skills**

- Uses pincer grasp
- Bangs two objects together
- Put objects into container
- Takes objects out of container
- Lets objects go voluntarily
- Pokes with index finger
- Tries to imitate scribbling

**Developmental Health Watch**

Alert your child’s doctor or nurse if your child displays any of the following signs of possible developmental delay for this age range.

- Does not crawl
- Drags one side of body while crawling (for over one month)
- Cannot stand without support
- Does not search for objects that are hidden while he or she watches
- Says no single words (“Mama” or “Dada”)
- Does not learn to use gestures, such as waving or shaking hands
- Does not point to objects or pictures
- Experiences a dramatic loss of skill he or she once had

Children develop at their own pace, so it is impossible to tell exactly when yours will learn a given skill. The developmental milestones below will give you a general idea of the changes you can expect as your child gets older, but don’t be alarmed if your child takes a slightly different course.

Adapted from the New Jersey’s Early Intervention Center