

Development Timeline

Below is a vision timeline of some of the key age-based milestones for parents. It is important to remember that each child is unique and may reach certain milestones at different ages. Please note, this is ONLY a guideline, and should not be used to replace the consultation of an eye care professional.

Birth to 1 Month

- Blinks in response to bright light
- Uncoordinated eye movements - may appear “crossed-eyed”
- Ability to stare at an object 8-10 inches away
- Stares at light or face
- Begins to track or follow moving objects

1 to 2 Months

- Clear vision only for objects 10-12 inches away
- Stares at faces and black and white images
- Follows an object up to 90 degrees
- Watches people closely
- Begins to develop tears

2 to 3 Months

- Begins to notice familiar objects up to 12 inches away
- Examines own hands
- Follows faces, objects, and light

4 to 5 Months

- Begins to reach for nearby objects, such as a hanging mobile
- Recognizes objects such as a bottle or pacifier
- Looks at self in mirror

5 to 7 Months

- Develops full color vision
- Ability to see images and objects from a few feet away
- Turns head to view objects
- Favors certain colors
- Touches mirror image of self

7 to 12 Months

- Development of independent eye movements
- Sees smaller objects
- Development of depth perception
- Crawls to reach distant objects
- Plays peek-a-boo
- Watches and follows fast moving objects



Development Timeline *Continued...*

12 to 18 Months (1 to 1.5 Years)

Clear distance vision
Depth perception for objects further than 2 feet away
Refinement of eye movements
Recognizes images of familiar objects
Walks to interact with interesting items
Recognizes self in mirror

18 to 24 Months (1.5 to 2 Years)

Begins to focus on objects closer than 2 feet
Clear distance vision
Development of fine motor skills
Colors with crayons - attempting to draw straight lines or circles
Identifies body parts; mouth, eyes, and hair, etc.

24 to 36 Months (2 to 3 Years)

Improvement of close vision skills; convergence and focusing
Development of binocular vision at all distances
Can change focus from distance to near
Improvement of depth perception
Uses focusing to recognize shapes and objects

36 to 48 Months (Preschool)

Distance vision nearing 20/20
Clear and single vision up to few inches from face
Development of gross motor coordination
Recognizes complex visual shapes and letters
Identifies colors

48 to 72 Months (School)

Knows letters and some words
Recognizes orientation of letters
Begins reading
Possesses a matured sense of depth perception
Clear, single, and comfortable vision at all distances

