It is only natural to wonder how a child is developing. Doctors and ECI professionals conduct developmental screenings to tell if a child is learning basic skills when they should, or if there might be a problem. To help you see if a child is meeting important milestones, a checklist is provided below for different age groups.

3 - 6 Months
- Follow moving toys or faces with their eyes
- Startle at loud or new sounds
- Wiggle and kick with legs and arms
- Lift head and shoulders while on stomach
- Smile back at parents or other family members
- Make sounds, like gurgling, cooing or sucking sounds

6 - 9 Months
- Explore toys with hands and mouth
- Roll over front-to-back and back-to-front
- Squeal and babble different sounds
- Sit by leaning on their hands
- Turn their heads to voices and respond to their names
- Know family members and seek their attention
- Enjoy playing "peek-a-boo"

9 - 12 Months
- Copy hand movements like “patty cake,” or “bye-bye”
- Pick up crumbs or other small things with their thumb and index finger
- Move toys from one hand to the other hand
- Crawl on hands and knees
- Sit without help
- Repeat sounds like “baba,” “Dada,” “Mama”
- Cry when mother or father leaves
12 - 15 Months
- Pull themselves up to a standing position
- Walk by holding onto furniture
- Drink from a cup with your help
- Wave bye-bye
- Say “Mama” and “Dada” and one other word
- Point to objects they want
- Can find a toy hidden under a cloth

15 - 18 Months
- Use at least three words besides “Mama” and “Dada”
- Like to look at pictures in a book
- Hold a crayon in a fist
- Hand toys to you when asked
- Point to pictures or objects you name
- Walk without help
- Dump contents out of a box

18 - 21 Months
- Like to pull and push things while walking
- Use pointing and words together to tell what they want
- Pull off shoes and socks
- Feed themselves with their fingers
- Can point to one body part when asked
- Use at least 10 words and repeat words you say
21 - 24 Months
- Point and use words to get your attention
- Like to pretend-play (talk on toy phone)
- Put together a 2 or 3 piece picture puzzle
- Like to throw balls
- Like to play alone with toys for a short time
- Say “no” a lot
- Like to copy what others do

24 - 30 Months
- Use 2 to 3 words together, like “No, Mommy.” or “More cookies.”
- Use and understand at least 50 words
- Feed themselves with a spoon
- Enjoy being around and watching other toddlers
- Show affection to family members and pets
- Run short distances without falling
- Pretend play with more than one step (feed a doll, then pat and hug it)
- Show lots of feelings (joy, anger, sadness)

30 - 36 Months
- Throw a ball overhand
- Comfort another child who is crying
- Can walk on tiptoes
- Combine 2 ideas in a sentence (“I want an apple and a banana.”)
- Help to clean up
- Ask for help when needed
- Combine 2 toys in pretend play (uses a stuffed bear as the driver of a toy car)
- Use at least 100 words

Each child is a unique individual and may meet developmental milestones a little earlier or later than his/her peers.

It’s best to talk to the child’s doctor and consider an ECI evaluation if you suspect a child is behind in their development or if they display any dramatic loss of skills.