Sequence of Infant Development and Feeding Skills in Normal, Healthy Full-Term Infants*

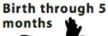
DEVELOPMENTAL SKILLS

Baby's Approx. Age

Mouth Patterns

Hand and Body Skills

Feeding Skills or Abilities





- Suck/swallow reflex
- Tongue thrust reflex
- · Rooting reflex
- Gag reflex
- · Poor control of head, neck, trunk
- Brings hands to mouth around 3 months
- Swallows liquids but pushes most solid objects from the mouth

4 months through 6 months



- Draws in upper or lower lip as spoon is removed from mouth
- Up-and-down munching movement
- Can transfer food from front to back of tongue to swallow
- Tongue thrust and rooting reflexes begin to disap-
- Gag reflex diminishes
- Opens mouth when sees spoon approaching

- Sits with support
- Good head control
- · Uses whole hand to grasp objects (palmer grasp)
- Takes in a spoonful of pureed or strained food and swallows it without choking
- · Drinks small amounts from cup when held by another person, with spilling

5 months through 9 months



- Begins to control the position of food in the mouth
- Up-and-down munching movement
- Positions food between jaws for chewing
- Begins to sit alone unsupported
- Follows food with eyes
- · Begins to use thumb and index finger to pick up objects (pincer grasp)
- Begins to eat mashed foods
- Eats from a spoon easily
- · Drinks from a cup with some spilling
- Begins to feed self with hands

8 months through 11 months



- Moves food from side-toside in mouth
- Begins to curve lips around rim of cup
- · Begins to chew in rotary pattern (diagonal movement of the jaw as food is moved to the side or center of the mouth)
- · Sits alone easily
- · Transfers objects from hand to mouth
- · Begins to eat ground or finely chopped food and small pieces of soft food
- Begins to experiment with spoon but prefers to feed self with hands
- · Drinks from a cup with less spilling

10 months through 12 months



- Rotary chewing (diagonal movement of the law as food is moved to the side or center of the mouth)
- Begins to put spoon in mouth
- Begins to hold cup
- · Good eve-hand-mouth coordination
- Eats chopped food and small pieces of soft, cooked table food
- · Begins self-spoon feeding with help