

16 Weeks

Likes to be held for brief periods in a seated position.

Has gained considerable control over the muscles which move his eyes in their sockets.

Rotates head freely from side to side as he lies in crib and inspects surroundings.

No longer stares blankly. Eyes focus on own hands. Move focus to an object nearby. Follow a toy moving through an arc of 180 degrees.

Coos with personal contentment, chuckles, can laugh aloud.

Smiles responsively and vocalizes on social approach, even laughs aloud.

Hands are uncurling but still reaches with fists rather than hands. Fingers are more nimble, more busy.

Brings fingers together over chest and engages in mutual finger play.

Associates sight and sound.

“Notices” when hears and sees his food prepared.

Increased demand for sociality. This may come in relation to feedings. Demand for social attention is especially strong toward the end of the day, around 5:00. Likes to be shifted from bed at this time.

18-22 Weeks

Begins to try to explore the world around him with eyes, fingers, hands, and mouth. Started by sucking his fingers. Now is busy finding out new things about own body and about things which come in contact. Everything seems to go in the mouth - blanket, toys, feet, and toes. Much drooling accompanies this so you may think he is teething. Pulls at his clothes. If he drops a toy, will follow it with his eyes. Turns head at the sound of a voice or bell, though not always in the right direction. May now try to catch a dangling object between hands.

Has developed several sounds that uses with people. Also “talks to himself” when alone. While shows an interest in family, may appear less friendly toward strangers or even afraid of them. Seems to recognize the difference between familiar and unfamiliar people.

So much enjoys being talked to that may cry when people leave.

Back is now straighter and can sit erect when supported. May appear to be starting to crawl, but is still limited by inability to raise his belly up off the mattress/floor.

5 Months

Reaches for and holds objects

Affect

Much disequilibrium and crying

Vocalizations

Vocalizes more (babbling) when alone

Vocalizes displeasure if loved toy removed

Babbling consists of more complex sounds and combinations

Response to Sound

Responds to voice by turning head and eyes