

[HOMEPAGE](#)

**Identifying giftedness in young children**

**Some ideas on Parenting Gifted Preschoolers by David Farmer Gifted July 1996**

Perhaps the most useful first piece of advice is to keep good, dated records of your child's development, not just of sitting and walking, but of the less glamorous stages too, such as grasping an object with finger and thumb, first using a two word sentence, and first turning of the pages of a book etc.

Children clearly progress at different rates in the various areas of development. A child may mature quickly in the area of gross motor skills but may be slower in his or her mastery of the cognitive milestones. Of course individual milestones are not, on their own, a good basis either for diagnosing giftedness or for concern. It is the overall pattern of development in the area, with due allowance for cultural and personality factors, that should form the basis of judgement. On this basis the adjacent tables showing normal developmental milestones, and those significantly advanced, may be useful.

<b>Development milestones</b>		
	<i>Normal Development</i>	<i>30% Advanced</i>
<b>Gross motor</b>		
Rolls over	3 months	2.1 months
Sits alone	7	4.9
Stands alone well	11	7.7
Walks alone	12.5	8.8
Walks up stairs	18	12.6
Turns pages of book	18	12.6
Runs well	24	16.8
Jumps with both feet	30	21
Rides tricycle using pedals	36	25.2
Throws ball	48	33.6
Skips with alternate feet	60	42
<b>Fine motor</b>		
Plays with rattle	3	2.1
Holds object between finger and thumb	9	6.3
Scribbles spontaneously	13	9.1
Draws person with two body parts	48	33.6
Draws recognisable person with body	60	42
Draws person with neck, hands & clothes	72	50.4
<b>Language development</b>		
Vocalises two different sounds	2.3	1.6
Says first word	7.9	5.5
Responds to name	9	6.3
Babbles with intonation	12	8.4
Vocabulary of 4-6 words	15	10.5
Names an object	17.8	12.5
Vocabulary of 20 words	21	14.7
Combines several words spontaneously	21	14.7
Uses simple sentences	24	16.8
Uses personal pronouns	24	16.8

The above details were taken from Harrison (1995) pp 24 & 33, with Harrison attributing her information to Hall, EG & Skinner, N (1980) *Somewhere to turn: strategies for parents of the gifted and talented children*. New York: Teachers College Press.

It is in the cognitive and social areas of giftedness that some of these milestones are often more difficult to assess. In addition to language development, Milner-Davis (1996) suggests notice be taken of a child's

- advanced knowledge
- advanced thinking or reasoning
- particular creativity
- humour and joke telling
- spontaneity
- demands for independence
- being competitive
- persistence in completing tasks, and
- advanced social maturity (such as in sharing, invitations, reminding others about rules, and role-playing).

To read the full article including ideas for parents and many other useful articles visit:  
<http://austega.com/gifted/16-gifted/articles/16-parenting-gifted-preschoolers.html>

Other Useful Links:

<http://www.australiangiftedsupport.com/earlychildhood.html>