18 Vision Development Milestones From Birth to Baby’s First Birthday

Milestones can vary by 6 weeks (except that baby’s eyes should appear straight by the 5th month). If your child is not meeting milestones, please talk with your child’s primary health care provider.

- **Birth - 1st Month**: Baby begins to focus on lights, faces, and objects 8 to 15 inches away from his/her face.
- **2nd + 3rd Months**: Baby begins to follow slowly moving lights, faces, and objects at near.
- **4th + 5th Months**: Baby begins to notice his/her hands.
- **5th Month**: Baby makes eye contact with parent or caregiver.
- **6th + 7th Months**: Baby follows moving lights, eye contact with parent or caregiver.
- **8th - 1st Month**: Baby has a social smile.
- **11th + 12th Months**: Baby watches his/her hand movements.
- **By 5th Month**: Baby follows moving lights, eye contact with parent or caregiver.
- **6th + 7th Months**: Baby reaches for objects or parent’s or caregiver’s face.
- **8th - 1st Month**: Baby uses his/her index finger to point to pictures in a book OR looks for object dropped in container.

*Constantly and constant means the misalignment is present all the time and could be up, down, in, or out. **Intermittently and intermittent means an eye turns in, out, up, or down, only for a short time.

For more information, contact us at info@preventblindness.org and visit the National Center for Children’s Vision and Eye Health at Prevent Blindness at www.nationalcenter.preventblindness.org.

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