

Child Care Connections

We are a registered private non-profit agency that has been serving our 10 county region since 1979. As an advocate for high quality child care programs, Child Care Connections regularly assists child care professionals with

- a lending library
- trainings that focus on the care of children with special needs, infants and toddlers, and curricular enhancement
- advancements in education and training
- resources and information
- technical assistance
- sponsorship of the Child and Adult Care Food Program
- coordinates with other agencies to address issues affecting children and families

Parents are served through provider referrals and access to parenting resources and information. For a list of providers, parents and guardians may visit:
www.greatstartconnect.org.

Our Service Area

We serve the following counties:

Antrim
Benzie
Charlevoix
Grand Traverse
Kalkaska
Leelanau
Manistee
Missaukee
Wexford



(231) 941-7767 or (800) 968-4428 (toll free)
(231) 941-9412 (fax)

www.childcarenwmi.com

Our Mission

To promote and strengthen quality child care.



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Understanding Your Child's Development

Nine Months Old



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NINE MONTHS

Child development not only encompasses a child's growth, it also shows the path as a child becomes able to do more complex activities. Although the "age specific tasks" listed can be used as benchmarks, the actual development rate is different for each and every child. These tasks are not tests; instead they indicate a continuum that human development follows. The differences from one individual to another are just a small part of what make each child so unique.

Physical Development

Measures: 27"-30"

Nutrition: This is a natural time that your baby will wean himself from breastfeeding if you choose to discontinue. He likes little bits of food to pick up and eat with his hands. Finger foods and foods that the family is eating are appropriate. Add new proteins and grains to his diet. Any juice that is given should be half diluted with water.

Sleeps: Sleep is becoming more organized. He can sleep up to ten to twelve hours per night, and naps are taken two to three times daily (for one to two hours each).

Weighs: Fifteen to twenty-four pounds

Movement

Gross Motor: A nine month old is crawling and may begin to pull himself up. He can walk

using a push wagon or using furniture for support. Some children walk on their own at this point. He is able to sit for longer periods.

Fine Motor: The nine month old is using his thumb and first and second finger to pick up and grasp things. He puts things into containers and takes them back out. He explores using his index finger for pointing and touching.

Intellectual Development

Perception: A nine month old is recognizing the dimensions of objects, space and depth. He can recognize the dimensions of objects (big and small).

Interest: A nine month old is interested in the environment around him and in objects and exploring spatial relationships.

Problem-solving: He is becoming more hesitant and careful, and will approach small objects with fingers and thumbs, large objects with both hands and arms. He will uncover objects that he has seen hidden from him, and remembers many games from repetition.

Socio-emotional Development

Expressive: A nine month old shows fear of new people and situations, unless mother introduces the new people in a very positive way

and the new people respect his personality. He shows anticipation of familiar people and situations.

Interaction: He is driven by the need to explore, is curious, and returns to his parent when fearful or needing reassurance. He is very interested in interaction and chooses materials from the environment deliberately.

Language

Nine to fifteen months is the Transition stage with language. Language has more meaning to the child. He likes being read to with books that include familiar words. He begins to understand direction and uses "bye-bye." Vocalizations are mixed with sound play. He will gurgle and blow bubbles. He can imitate coughs and clicks, and he is very aware of his own name.

Activities

A nine month old needs space and opportunity for movement. He likes to crawl up and down stairs, to share in family meals and to feed himself. He explores the safe objects in the home and loves small containers with objects inside and push wagons that is weighed down helps him with his mobility. Soft balls and other rolling toys are favorites for a nine month old.