Cognitive Developmental Milestones

Cognitive development involves attention, memory, mental representation, logic and reasoning, and classification. Children construct their knowledge by interacting with all aspects of their environment. Children learn when they solve problems or conflicts. When children interact with unfamiliar objects and experiences, they exercise their developing skills and learn more about their world.

Infant Developmental Milestones

Infants’ cognitive development begins through their interactions with adults. Infants’ cognitive development is also influenced by sensory experiences and their ability to process sensory information.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Cognitive Developmental Milestones</th>
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</table>
| 0-3 Months| Follows moving objects  
             Recognizes familiar objects and people at a distance  
             Distinguishes smells and taste  
             Prefers sweeter smells  
             Reaches towards sound of toys that make noise |
| 4-7 months| Finds partially hidden object  
             Explores objects with hands and mouth  
             Struggles to get objects that are out of reach  
             Responds to affection  
             Recognizes familiar faces |
| 8-12 months| Explores objects in different ways  
              Finds hidden objects easily  
              Looks at correct picture when the image is named  
              Imitates gestures |
Cognitive Developmental Milestones

**Toddler Developmental Milestones**
Toddlers can begin to solve simple problems, complete more difficult tasks, and explore unfamiliar objects.

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12-24 months</td>
<td>- Repeats actions for cause and effect&lt;br&gt;- Asks simple questions&lt;br&gt;- Imitates actions, words, and sounds&lt;br&gt;- Understands objects and people still exist when not in view&lt;br&gt;- Interacts with objects and toys to solve problems</td>
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<tr>
<td>24-36 months</td>
<td>- Makes connections between ideas and objects&lt;br&gt;- Makes predictions with adult assistance&lt;br&gt;- Discusses how and why things occur&lt;br&gt;- Experiments with objects for cause and effect&lt;br&gt;- Attempts to problem solve without adult assistance</td>
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Cognitive Developmental Milestones

Preschool Developmental Milestones
Cognitive development in preschoolers enables them to coordinate and categorize their thoughts. With their new level of communication, they are able to effectively understand and problem solve when given new information. Preschoolers ask questions and take in facts. Unlike toddlers, preschoolers are able to recall past and anticipate future events.

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| 36-48 months | Carries out cause and effects actions  
Uses objects as intended for activities  
Identifies familiar objects and people in new situations  
Utilizes clues to predict what will happen next  
Discusses how new learning relates to concrete objects based on prior knowledge  
Tests different possibilities to problem solve  
Recognizes and comment on cause and effect |
| 48-60 months | Uses reasoning skills to explain events  
Makes conclusions based on facts and evidence  
Understands how to use objects in new situations  
Counts up to the number 15  
Uses observation and imitation to transfer new experiences and facts |