

Your Child at Two Months

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DEVELOPMENT:

All babies develop at their own rate. At this age you may notice that your baby:

- Smiles and coos at you
- Turns his or her head toward your voice
- Follows an object with his or her eyes
- Raises his or her head when lying on tummy
- Shows better head control
- Grasps a rattle briefly

Unexplained crying spells and colic are still normal at this age. Be patient—they will improve over the next one to two months. * Swaddling, rocking and cuddling may soothe your baby. Try giving him or her a pacifier. Remember to ask friends and family for help when you need it.

* Discontinue swaddling once your baby is rolling over.

IMUNIZATIONS: DTaP (diphtheria, tetanus and pertussis)/Hib (haemophilus influenzae)/Polio; Hepatitis B, Pneumococcal conjugate, Rotavirus

Possible vaccine side effects include:

- Fever
- More irritability or fussiness
- Redness or swelling at the site of the shot
- More spitting up or looser stools

If needed, you can give your baby acetaminophen (Tylenol). Ask your Provider for the correct dose. Contact your Provider if your child's symptoms are severe or last longer than 48 hours.

NUTRITION:

Babies at this age get all their nutrition from breast milk or formula. Try to breast-feed as much as you can for as long as possible. Here are some facts and tips on feeding your baby.

- Breast-fed babies may nurse five to eight times a day.
- Bottle-fed babies may drink three to six ounces at every feeding and may feed five to eight times a day.
- Night feedings are normal at this age.
- If your baby only drinks breast milk or drinks fewer than 32 ounces of formula every day, he or she should take 400 international units (IU) of vitamin D daily. You can get vitamin D over the counter. Ask your Provider for details.
- Do not prop bottles in your baby's mouth.
- Do not give your baby solids or add cereal to his or her bottles.
- Do not give your baby honey.



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SAFETY

- Never shake your baby.
- Set your water heater to 120 degrees Fahrenheit so you won't burn your baby.
- Always put your baby to sleep on his or her back. Babies should sleep on a firm mattress covered with a fitted sheet. Keep pillows, bumpers, blankets and toys away from your baby while he or she sleeps.
- Always place your baby in a car seat that faces backward in the back seat. For more information on car seats or to find a car seat inspection office in your area, go to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration Web site: nhtsa.gov.
- Never leave your baby alone in a car or a bath or on high surfaces.
- Do not cook or drink hot liquids while holding your baby.
- Do not let people smoke around your baby.
- Never tie a pacifier or put jewelry around your baby's neck.
- Make sure that your baby's toys do not have sharp edges and can't be broken. The toys should be at least one and a half inches wide—your baby could choke on them if they are smaller than that. Keep balloons and plastic bags away from your baby—they are dangerous and can suffocate your child.
- Make sure that the smoke and carbon monoxide detectors in your home are working.
- If you are worried about violence in your home, please speak with your Provider or contact the National Domestic Violence Hotline at 1-800-799-SAFE (1-800-799-7233) or ndvh.org.
- Post the Poison Control Hotline on your refrigerator: 1-800-222-1222.
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FOCUS ON FAMILY

- Postpartum depression can happen at any time during the first year.
While postpartum blues are common during the first few weeks, they usually get better. If moms feel sad, anxious or depressed beyond this time, they should seek help and talk with their Provider. You can find more information online at postpartum.net.
- Older brothers and sisters may feel jealous of the new baby. Spending time alone with your older children may help.
- Try to find time for you and your partner to be alone. Taking care of yourselves will allow you to take better care of your family.

PROMOTING DEVELOPMENT

- Talk, read and sing to your baby.
- Play music for your baby.
- Hold and cuddle your baby often.
- Place your baby on his or her tummy during playtime.
- Create a regular bedtime routine.
- Do not let your baby watch TV or baby videos.

WHEN TO CALL YOUR PROVIDER'S OFFICE

Call your provider if you have questions about your baby or if he or she:

- Has a rectal temperature of 100.4 degrees or higher
- Cries a lot more than normal or can't be comforted
- Has trouble breathing
- Is limp or sluggish

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- American Academy of Pediatrics: aap.org; American Academy of Family Physicians: aafp.org; Immunization information: immunize.org, cdc.gov/vaccines, vaccine.chop.edu, familyProvider.org and vaccineinformation.org
- Suggested reading:
 - *Baby 411: Clear Answers & Smart Advice for Your Baby's First Year* by Ari Brown, M.D., and Denise Fields
 - *Caring for Your Baby and Young Child: Birth to Age Five* by American Academy of Pediatrics, Stephen Shelov, M.D.
 - *The Happiest Baby on the Block* by Harvey Karp
 - *Healthy Sleep Habits, Happy Child* by Marc Weissbluth
 - *Infants and Mothers: Differences in Development* by T. Berry Brazelton, M.D.
 - *What to Expect the First Year* by H. Mukoff
 - *Your Baby and Child: From Birth to Age Five* by Penelope Leach
 - *Mother Nurture* by Rick Hanson, Jan Hanson and Ricki Pollycove
- Other books are available at aap.org/bookstore.