

Average Age of Emergence of Intentional, Communicative Gestures in Typical Development¹

Age	Behavior Regulation	Social Interaction	Initiates Joint Attention
5-6 Months	Looks and vocalizes.		
6 Months	Pushes away, reaches for pickup.	Shows interest.	
7-8 Months	Reaches with whole hand.	Anticipatory behavior.	
8 Months	Pushes away both hands.	Waves in context.	Looks to adult and vocalizes.
9 Months	Reaches with open / closed hand.	Participatory behavior, claps.	Gives objects.
10 Months	Touches adult.	Waves to prompt, initiates social games, dances to music.	Shows objects.
11 Months	Points.	Shows function of object.	Points to comment.
12 Months	Gives objects, alternates gaze from object to person to object.		
13 Months	Shakes head “no.”	Hugs objects, claps with excitement.	Points to request (“Where’s the light?”).
14 Months	Takes adult by hand.	Points to request information.	
15 Months		Smacks lips, blows kisses.	
16 Months		Nods head “yes.”	
17 Months		Shrugs shoulder, “shhh.”	

¹ This data comes from the following research.

Crais, E., Douglas, D. D., & Campbell, C. C. (2004). The intersection of the development of gestures and intentionality. *Journal of Speech, Language and Hearing Research, 47*(3), 678-694.