







Visual Development in Infancy

M I L E S T O N E S

| Age | Acuity, Color Perception, Focusing, and Exploration | Depth Perception | Pattern Perception | Object Perception |
|---------------|--|---|--|--|
| Birth–1 month | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Visual acuity is 20/600 Scans the visual field and tracks moving objects | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Responds to kinetic depth cues  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prefers large, bold patterns Scans the outskirts of a pattern | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Displays size and shape constancy |
| 2–3 months | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Has adultlike focusing ability Perceives colors across the entire spectrum | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Responds to binocular depth cues  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prefers patterns with fine details Scans internal pattern features Begins to perceive overall pattern structure Perceives human facial pattern Recognizes mother's face in a photo | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Uses motion and spatial layout to identify objects |
| 4–5 months | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organizes colors into categories like those of adults | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sensitivity to binocular depth cues improves  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Detects subjective boundaries in patterns | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Uses kinetic cues to perceive objects as three-dimensional Uses stationary cues (shape, texture, color) to identify objects |
| 6–8 months | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Visual acuity improves to 20/100 Tracks moving objects with smooth, efficient eye movements | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Responds to pictorial depth cues Avoids the deep side of the visual cliff   | | |
| 9–12 months | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Visual acuity continues to improve |  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Can extract pattern information in the absence of a full image (from a moving light or partial picture) Perceives patterns (such as human walking movements and facial expressions of emotion) as meaningful wholes | |

Note: These milestones represent overall age trends. Individual differences exist in the precise age at which each milestone is attained.