**Problem Solving**

- **0 to 3 months**: depend on their reflexes to solve problems.
- **3 to 6 months**: Are able to bring object to their mouth. This exploration is the first step towards problem solving.
- **6 to 9 months**: enjoy toys that produce responses, such as making noise when shaken. The experimentation with cause & effect is crucial to solving problems.
- **9 to 12 months**: begin to solve basic problems such as pushing an item out of the way in order to reach what they want.
- **12 to 18 months**: begin to solve problems through observation and imitation.
- **Toddlers**: start to play with "what would happen if...", for example pushing every part of a new toy until it responds in some way.

**Rhythm**

- **0 to 3 months**: are focused on sensory exploration. Hearing is especially important since they can hear better than they see and have been hearing for several months while in the womb.
- **3 to 6 months**: are learning muscular control. They enjoy songs and games with basic gross motor movements and anything they can use to make noise.
- **6 to 9 months**: have greater muscular control and are working to refine those movements. They are also starting to explore fine motor skills.
- **9 to 12 months**: are into imitative play. They are able to understand the association of words and gestures and are working to refine their own skills based on what they observe from you.

**Sensory - Auditory**

- **0 to 3 months**: are learning to turn towards familiar sounds and will react to disagreeable sounds.
- **3 to 6 months**: will smile and eventually babble when they hear a parent’s voice. They are learning to distinguish emotions, and use their own voice to express joy and displeasure.
- **6 to 9 months**: are learning their name and the word "no."
- **9 to 12 months**: are focused on language development. Their hearing is almost as developed as an adult’s, and they begin to imitate sounds and vocal inflections.

**Sensory - Tactile**

- **0 to 3 months**: are just learning about the variety of tactile sensations in the world. They are comforted by gentle touch and pressures, and enjoy the feel of soft, smooth objects, and a variety of movement (ex: rocking, swinging, etc.)
- **3 to 6 months**: can now bring things to their mouths and enjoy exploring all the textures they can find with their sensitive oral nerve endings.
- **6 to 9 months**: are able to sit up and enjoy a wider variety of movement and physical play. They still put objects in their mouth, but now explore with their hands and eyes just as often.
- **9 to 12 months**: are continuing their constant exploration, but now have the added advantage of improved mobility and fine motor skills.

**Sensory - Visual**

- **0 to 3 months**: focusing on objects 8 to 10 in. away. Their eyes are starting to work together and by 3 months they should be able to follow a moving object with their eyes and reach for it.
- **3 to 6 months**: improving their eye/body coordination. Depth perception and color come together around month 5.
- **6 to 9 months**: working towards crawling which helps improve eye/body coordination. The more crawling the better.
- **9 to 12 months**: learning to grasp objects with thumb and finger, and are working towards walking.

**Spatial Awareness**

- **0 to 3 months**: are adjusting to large spaces. Then usually like to be held close and swaddled, and their vision does not yet extend to the edges of a room.
- **3 to 6 months**: are beginning to reach out for objects around them, and are starting to explore their space as they learn to roll and sit up.
- **6 to 9 months**: are enjoying an expanding world as they gain more mobility. Their movements are becoming more controlled and precise, though they still enjoy flailing their limbs around, especially when laughing.
- **9 to 12 months**: are exploring with purpose. They tend to find small spaces interesting and enjoy crawling under the bed or behind the couch.

**Strength**

- **0 to 3 months**: are working on gaining strength in all areas, but first efforts, focus on lifting the head and holding up their head.
- **3 to 6 months**: can hold their head up and are advancing towards sitting.
- **6 to 9 months**: are shifting their focus from upper body control to lower body control as they advance into crawling.
- **9 to 12 months**: are building both upper and lower body strength as they crawl, pull themselves up on the furniture, and begin to walk.

*(All babies develop at their own pace. These are just general guidelines.)*