

Rourke Baby Record Well Child Information

Parents often wonder about their child's health, leading to the frequently asked question: "Is my child healthy and growing normally?"

These information sheets outline normal and healthy growth and developmental milestones, and common health topics for your child.

Due to space constraints, some messages are repeated at several ages while others appear only once. Read the complete set of sheets to obtain the entire information.

The Rourke Baby Record (RBR) is a guide that many Canadian doctors and other healthcare professionals utilize for well baby and child visits for infants and children from 1 week to 5 years of age. Its website, www.rourkebabyrecord.ca, includes forms for charting well baby visits and related resources for parents and for healthcare professionals.



Resources

You can visit the RBR Parent Resources website (www.rourkebabyrecord.ca) for additional help to answer questions that you may have about your child.

For more information on your child's health, the top 5 websites cited by the RBR Parent Resources are:

1. Canadian Pediatrics Society – Caring for Kids (www.caringforkids.cps.ca)
2. Hospital for Sick Children – About Kids Health (www.aboutkidshealth.ca)
3. Parachute - formerly Safe Kids Canada (www.parachutecanada.org)
4. Dietitians of Canada (www.dietitians.ca)
5. Health Canada (www.hc-sc.gc.ca)

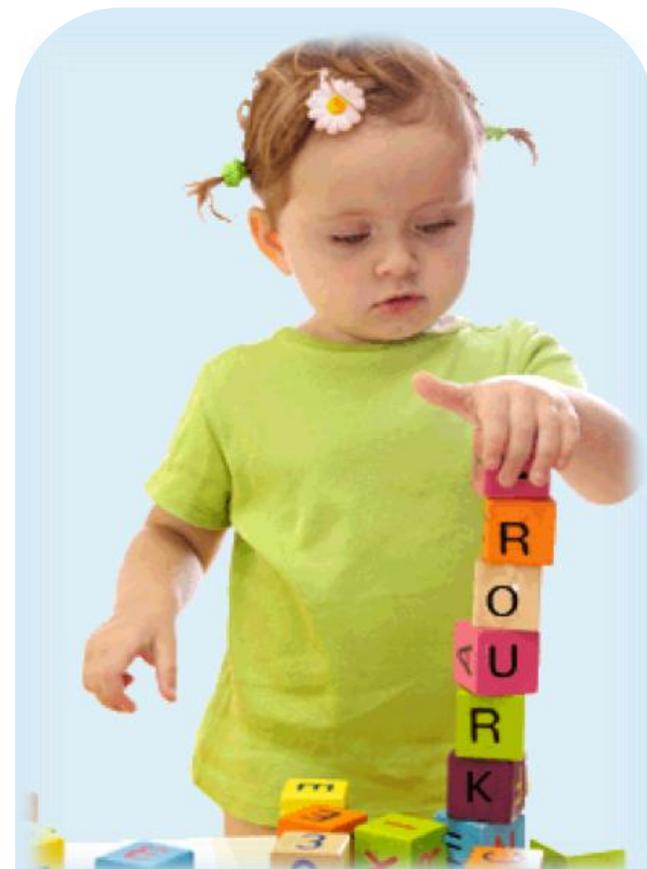
Support and Acknowledgements

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As evidence-based information is constantly changing, the Rourke Baby Record and these recommendations should be used as a guide only.

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Rourke Baby Record

Well Child Visit

Information about your
child who is:

4-5 Years Old

Preventing Injuries

- ❑ Car seat safety: Use a forward-facing child car seat, in the back middle seat of the car, if your child weighs between 10 - 22 kg (22 - 48 pounds) and up to 122 cm (48") tall. Use a booster seat from at least 18 - 36 kg (40 - 80 lbs) and up to 145 cm (4'9"). Maximum height and weight may vary with your car seat model. Follow the instructions that come with your car seat to install it properly.
- ❑ Both you and your child should wear a properly fitting bicycle helmet when cycling. Replace it if there is a heavy impact or if it shows signs of damage.
- ❑ To decrease the risk of drowning, supervise your child near water, encourage swimming lessons, fence any pool completely, use life jackets, and take boating and water safety training.
- ❑ Avoid home trampolines.
- ❑ Remove or safely secure firearms from the home to prevent injury, either unintentional or intentional.
- ❑ Prevent sunburn by minimizing sun exposure, wearing protective clothing, hats, and sunscreen with SPF of at least 30.
- ❑ Use a maximum of 10% DEET applied no more than 3 times a day to prevent insect bites.

Feeding & Growth

- ❑ Feed your child following Canada's Food Guide for optimal nutritional value. Serve small nutritious meals and snacks. Because he has a small stomach, he needs to eat small amounts of food more often throughout the day.
- ❑ At this age, she will likely drink about 500 mL (16 oz) of skim, 1% to 2% milk per day.
- ❑ Avoid sweetened liquids or fruit juices as they can cause tooth decay, overweight, or diarrhea, and can take the place of healthy foods. Satisfy his thirst with water.

Other Advice

- ❑ Do not use over the counter cough/cold medications.
- ❑ See your dentist for regular check-ups. Supervise her brushing twice daily with a small amount (pea-sized portion) of fluoridated toothpaste.
- ❑ Children can still have episodes of bed-wetting at this age. Talk to your health care provider if this is an ongoing issue.
- ❑ Having a healthy lifestyle yourself with healthy eating and physical activity will provide a good role model for your child.
- ❑ Your child will soon be participating in pre-school and kindergarten. If he is currently in full-time child care, the transition should not be difficult. Speak to your child-care worker about any concerns to follow up with your health-care provider. They may recommend some community resources such as parenting skills programs for you or social skills training for your child.

Development

- ❑ At 4 years your child should:
 - Understand 3-part directions.
 - Ask and answer lots of questions. (Eg. What are you doing?)
 - Walk up and down stairs alternating feet.
 - Undo buttons and zippers.
 - Try to comfort someone who is upset.
- ❑ At 5 years your child should:
 - Count out loud or on fingers
 - Speak clearly in adult-like sentences most of the time.
 - Throw and catch a ball.
 - Hop on 1 foot several times.
 - Dress and undress with little help.
 - Cooperate with adult requests most of the time.
 - Retell the sequence of a story.
 - Separate easily from you.
- ❑ Limit TV, video and computer time to allow more time for reading and for physical activity with him. Your child needs both quiet time and group activities.
- ❑ Play rhyming games, memory games, ball games, and group games.
- ❑ Listen to your child when she talks to you. Notice when she is doing something good. She will feel important if she has a few simple tasks.
- ❑ Have fun with your child with drawing, painting, gluing, cutting, puzzles, lacing, mazes, and printing.
- ❑ Be sure your child knows his full name, phone number and address.
- ❑ Report any concerns about your child's development, including her hearing and vision, to her physician or other healthcare professional.