

SPEAKER: We are here with [? Contisha ?], and her five month old infant Marley. You can see that Marley is happy to be with us this morning. She's having a very good time. And we're going to talk a little bit about some of the motor skills that Marley is developing. And [? Contisha ?] is going to see if we can get her to show you some of the things she can do.

Does Marley hold her head up steady? Look at this-- she's doing that already for us, isn't she? Look at how nice and strong she is, how straight she holds her head. So she has certainly mastered that. And if we look at her, we see now she's doing something else that we would expect an infant this young to do. And that, she's able to sit by herself, as long as she's got a little support from her mom. And so she's sitting up nice and tall, and straight.

If she were on her tummy, is she able to lift your head and shoulders up? Let's see what happens if we put her down on her tummy. Now, now that's a perfect example of that. Let's watch and see if she pushes up. Ah-- she's ready to do push-ups. Nice strong arms. Look at how well she does that.

She's also starting to pull her knees up towards her. She's swayed from this a bit in her development. But that's going to enable her to start crawling someday soon. And then Mom, you're going to have to start chasing her once they learn to crawl.

Let's see if there-- on the couch, she can just sit by herself without you holding her. And we'll watch her carefully in case she takes a little flop to the side. (GASPING) What a big girl! Wonderful. You're sitting all by yourself. What a wonderful job.

Now I'm going to see if she'll reach out and try to take something from me. Marley? Marley? Look at this. Oh, look-- reached out with one hand, got exactly what she wanted. And now she can check it out. Good job.

One of the other things-- now please remember that Marley is only five months old. One of the other things that children learn to do when they're a little bit older than

Marley, is to roll over when they're on their back, and roll over onto their tummy. So we're going to take a look and see if that works. And again she would be very young. Oh-- she would be very young if she was doing this. And you want to be careful.

And so I'm not surprised by what I see there. She may not yet have the coordination and the strength to do that. But again, that's something we would expect on average, the child that's about six, six and a half months old. Something we would also look for in an older infant, at about eight months of age, would be a child that was starting to crawl and pull themselves up. Marley's too young to be doing that. But as we saw already, when she's on her tummy, she's pulling up her little legs, and trying to make some early crawling moves. It's going to take her another month or two, before she'll be ready to do that.

She's a beautiful, fine, healthy five month old infant. Thank you.

SPEAKER: Does Damian sit with some support, if you hold onto her?

DAMIAN'S Yes.

MOTHER:

SPEAKER: OK. And I'm going to just see if he'll reach out and take an object from me, OK?

DAMIAN'S OK.

MOTHER:

SPEAKER: And then we may or may not be able to get it back from him. That's the way it happens. Damian? Damian? (GASPING) Look at what I have. Horsey-horsey, horsey-horsey.

Exactly. So he was able to reach out and grasp with his fingers, and take that object from me. Oh-- and try to see if it's delicious. What a good idea. I see he's also grown some teeth for himself.

DAMIAN'S Yeah.

MOTHER:

SPEAKER: Yes. Something else that we would expect to see in an infant between four and 10 months of age, is rolling over from his back to this front. Has he rolled over for you?

DAMIAN'S Yeah, he has.

MOTHER:

SPEAKER: And so you know you have to keep your eye on him very carefully now, right? Don't you?

DAMIAN'S Yes.

MOTHER:

SPEAKER: Let me see if he'll give me horsey-horsey back. But maybe he won't. I'll take that. Thank you. That's so wonderful. OK. Mom, if you have enough room there, would you lay him on his back next to you? And we'll keep a very careful eye on him.

DAMIAN'S OK.

MOTHER:

SPEAKER: And we'll just try to see if he'll roll over. (GASPING) On your back. Uh-ha. Oh, and that's perfect. His feet down would be perfect, as long as you're OK holding onto him.

DAMIAN'S OK.

MOTHER:

SPEAKER: So he very quickly, very easily rolled over. And has he started to crawl?

DAMIAN'S Yes, he has.

MOTHER:

SPEAKER: Oh-- he's going to show us. There he goes! And when babies start to crawl, they always do that much faster than anybody expects. That was exactly the next thing I was going to ask about, whether he could pull himself up, and stand while he's holding onto something. And so we can see he's got that one well mastered. Also

look at how nice and straight and strong he stands. So he's very, very comfortable doing that.

And has he started yet trying to stand without holding onto something?

DAMIAN'S Yes, he has.

MOTHER:

SPEAKER: Oh, OK. And you know what's going to come right after that, right Mom?

DAMIAN'S Yes, I do.

MOTHER:

SPEAKER: You're going to be chasing him.

DAMIAN'S Yeah.

MOTHER:

SPEAKER: OK. So being able to walk independently is something at around this age that we'd expect to see. Damian is still a little on the young side to be doing that. But from everything I see, it looks like he's right on the edge. And we'll be doing it in no time at all. What a happy, playful baby. Wonderful. Thank you.

[? Shavon, ?] let me just ask you about a couple of things that London can probably do, in terms of her motor skills. And if we can get her to cooperate and show us some of these things, we'll try to do that. So again, remember that London is 13 months old. So does she roll over?

[? SHAVON: Yes. ?]

SPEAKER: If you lay her on her back?

[? SHAVON: Yes. ?]

SPEAKER: She'll roll herself over to the front. And I think she's showing us what I was going to ask you next. Does she pull herself up and stand on something?

[? SHAVON: Yes. ?]

SPEAKER: So would she turn around? Or does she turn around and like hold onto a couch or something like that?

[? SHAVON: Yes. ?] Come on, London, let's show.

SPEAKER: And then the next thing would be, is if she uses it to move herself around. Oh, that's OK. Crawling is OK too. So she's doing a nice job of crawling. And look, she can pull yourself up to her feet. Oh. Get a toy if she wants to. I think she's figured out what puzzles are. And that's a good thing.

Does she ever stand without holding onto something yet?

[? SHAVON: Yes. ?]

SPEAKER: She can do that? OK. And so is she starting to walk by yourself? Or she still needs a hand to hold onto--

[? SHAVON: Yeah. ?]

SPEAKER: --or a piece of furniture, or such. So I mean, she is really very much on track, in terms of her physical development. And we can just see from the way she's standing there, that she's strong and she straight. She has very good muscle control. And not only large muscles-- but look, she's using small muscle control to handle those pieces, and to get the puzzle pieces back inside the puzzle. Nicely done.