<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age in Months</th>
<th>Skill</th>
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</table>
| **0 – 3 months** | ○ Suckle/Swallow reflex  
        ○ Tongue, jaw, lips work as one unit  
        ○ Tongue movement = in/out pattern  
        ○ Tongue is cupped to provide channel for backward movement of liquid  
        ○ Rooting reflex  
        ○ Phasic bite reflex  
        ○ Gag reflex |
| **4 – 6 months** | ○ Suckle in anticipation of spoon  
        ○ Much chew pattern (5-6 months)  
        ○ Tongue and jaw move as one unit  
        ○ Poor coordination of suck, swallow, breathe  
        ○ Rooting phasic bite decreases by 5 months  
        ○ Gag reflex |
| **7 – 9 months** | ○ Mixed tongue movements: in/out and up/down  
        ○ Active lip movements for closure on bottle and to clear spoon  
        ○ Cup drinking – unstable jaw  
        ○ Tongue protrusion on swallow  
        ○ Some jaw separation form tongue and lip during bite  
        ○ Transfer of food – side to center, center to side  
        ○ Lip closure for swallowing semi-solids  
        ○ Gag is slightly less sensitive |
| **10 – 12 months** | ○ True suck  
        ○ Cleans lower lip with teeth  
        ○ Improved coordination of suck, swallow, breathing  
        ○ Tongue protrusion on swallow  
        ○ Controlled bite on soft cookie  
        ○ Improved lip closure for swallowing liquids  
        ○ Transfer of foods across midline is beginning (i.e., beginning rotary pattern)  
        ○ Active lip, check movement during chewing |
| **13 – 15 months** | ○ May bite on cup to achieve stabilization  
        ○ Independent tongue and lip movements  
        ○ Good coordination of suck, swallow, breathing  
        ○ Lip closure during chewing  
        ○ Some stability for controlled bite on hard cookie |
| **16 – 18 months** | ○ Some internal jaw stability  
        ○ Reduced tongue extension during swallowing  
        ○ Good control of liquid  
        ○ Controlled bite without associated head movement  
        ○ Smoother integration of tongue, lip, and jaw movements  
        ○ Uses tongue to clean lips |
| **19 – 24 months** | ○ Can drink in long sequences  
        ○ Straw drinking with lips  
        ○ Tongue retraction for swallowing  
        ○ Chews meats competently  
        ○ Transfers across midline |
| **25 – 36 months** | ○ Internal jaw stabilization  
        ○ Tongue-tip elevation for swallowing  
        ○ Appropriate jaw grading for bite  
        ○ Total dissociation of head movement for bite  
        ○ Smooth transfer of food from side-to-side  
        ○ Gradual refinement of tongue movements |

Source – 1993 Lori Overland, M.S., CCC-SLP and 1993 Sara Rosenfield-Johnson, M.S., CCC-SLP