

# **Locomotor milestones and babywalkers: cross sectional study**

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Studies have found that the use of babywalkers is associated with delay in crawling.

Participants, methods, and results

These authors evaluated 190 parent responses to the recorded age at which their child reached the developmental milestones of raising the head when prone, rolling over, sitting with support, sitting alone, crawling, standing with support, walking with support, standing alone, and walking alone.

One hundred and two infants used babywalkers (54%; 48 boys and 54 girls) starting at a median age of 26 (range 26-28) weeks and finishing at 54 (50-54) weeks.

The median duration of use was 26 (22-29) weeks.

Achieving crawling, standing alone, and walking alone occurred later in the group that used babywalkers.

The authors "found strong associations, between the amount of babywalker use and the extent of developmental delay."

"Each aggregate 24 hours of babywalker use was associated with a delay of 3.3 (2.5 to 4.1) days in walking alone and a delay of 3.7 (2.9 to 4.4) days in standing alone.

"This study provides additional evidence that babywalkers are associated with delay in achieving normal locomotor milestones."

"Babywalkers are known to increase the risk of injuries in infancy."

"The use of babywalkers should be discouraged."

KEY POINTS FROM DAN MURPHY

- 1) The use of babywalkers delays the development of normal locomotor milestones.
- 2) Babywalkers increases risk of injury for the children who use them.
- 3) Babywalkers should be discouraged.