

with a stick or bricks. He will run his cars and trucks up and down, maybe with one in each hand.

- If held in a standing position against a solid piece of furniture, he will hold on tightly and be delighted in seeing the world from a different height. He will still find it quite hard to pull himself up to a standing position alone, but if given plenty of opportunities to try, he will get better at this. By the end of the month, a few babies are even able to 'cruise' a little, walking with both hands firmly holding on to a piece of furniture to steady themselves.
- By eight months of age, your baby's vision is almost fully developed, although his ability to focus quickly continues to develop during the first year.



#### SAFETY TIP

Your baby will notice tiny flecks of fluff and crumbs and may try to pick them up, using his developing pincer grasp. This is when you need to be vigilant about leaving small things such as coins, buttons and pins around. Your baby will put most things he finds into his mouth.



His pincer grasp can be dangerous if he tries to pick up tiny objects

### The eight-month check

During the eighth month your GP or nurse will carry out a developmental check on your baby. This is also an opportunity for you to discuss whether you have any concerns regarding your baby's development. The following will be checked:

#### Weight and length

Your baby will be weighed and measured and the details entered into his health book.



#### Hearing

This is a basic test involving you or the GP making a sound and carefully watching your baby's response to see if he has heard it. If you are concerned, or if the GP feels there is any reason for a second opinion, you will be offered further tests at hospital at a later date.

#### Eyesight

Your baby will be observed to see how he looks at objects and checked for any sign of a squint. The GP will see if he can track a moving object around the room.

#### Sounds

Your GP will ask you what sounds your baby is able to make, as these are an important stepping-stone to speech.

#### Handling skills

Your baby's developing motor-neurone skills may also be observed, in which case he will be given a small toy to handle and play with.