

Developmental Checklists Birth to Five



the **early childhood direction** center

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**If you are concerned about your child's development, please contact the WNY
ECDC for information.**

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Syracuse, NY 13244, E-mail: ecdc@syr.edu, website: <http://ecdc.syr.edu>, from: Shelov, S. P., & Hannemann, R. E. (1994).
The American Academy of Pediatrics: Caring for Your Baby and Young Child Birth to Age 5: The Complete and Authoritative
Guide. New York: Bantam Doubleday Dell Pub.

DEVELOPMENTAL CHECKLIST - 1 TO 3 MONTHS

CHILD'S NAME: _____

DATE OF BIRTH: _____

PARENT OR GUARDIAN: _____

DATE
OBSERVED

MOVEMENT

- ✓ Raises head and cheek when lying on stomach (3 mos.)
- ✓ Supports upper body with arms when lying on stomach (3 mos.)
- ✓ Stretches legs out when lying on stomach or back (2-3 mos.)
- ✓ Opens and shuts hands (2-3 mos.)
- ✓ Pushes down on his legs when his feet are placed on firm surface (3 mos.)

VISUAL

- ✓ Watches face intently (2-3 mos.)
- ✓ Follows moving objects (2 mos.)
- ✓ Recognizes familiar objects and people at a distance (3 mos.)
- ✓ Starts using hands and eyes in coordination (3 mos.)

HEARING AND SPEECH

- ✓ Smiles at the sound of voice (2-3 mos.)
- ✓ Cooing noises; vocal play (begins at 3 mos.)
- ✓ Attends to sound (1-3 mos.)
- ✓ Startles to loud noise (1-3 mos.)

SOCIAL/EMOTIONAL

- ✓ Begins to develop a social smile (1-3 mos.)
- ✓ Enjoys playing with other people and may cry when playing stops (2-3 mos.)
- ✓ Becomes more communicative and expressive with face and body (2-3 mos.)
- ✓ Imitates some movements and facial expressions

DEVELOPMENTAL RED FLAGS (1 TO 3 MONTHS)

- ✓ Doesn't seem to respond to loud noises
- ✓ Doesn't follow moving objects with eyes by 2 to 3 months
- ✓ Doesn't smile at the sound of your voice by 2 months
- ✓ Doesn't grasp and hold objects by 3 months
- ✓ Doesn't smile at people by 3 months
- ✓ Cannot support head well at 3 months
- ✓ Doesn't reach for and grasp toys by 3 to 4 months
- ✓ Doesn't bring objects to mouth by 4 months
- ✓ Doesn't push down with legs when feet are placed on a firm surface by 4 months
- ✓ Has trouble moving one or both eyes in all directions
- ✓ Crosses eyes most of the time (occasional crossing of the eyes is normal in these first months)

COMMENTS:

DEVELOPMENTAL RED FLAGS (4 TO 7 MONTHS)

- ✓ Seems very stiff, tight muscles
- ✓ Seems very floppy, like a rag doll
- ✓ Head still flops back when body is pulled to sitting position (by 5months still exhibits head lag)
- ✓ Shows no affection for the person who cares for them
- ✓ Doesn't seem to enjoy being around people
- ✓ One or both eyes consistently turn in or out
- ✓ Persistent tearing, eye drainage, or sensitivity to light
- ✓ Does not respond to sounds around them
- ✓ Has difficulty getting objects to mouth
- ✓ Does not turn head to locate sounds by 4 months
- ✓ Doesn't roll over (stomach to back) by 6 months
- ✓ Cannot sit with help by 6 months (not by themselves)
- ✓ Does not laugh or make squealing sounds by 5 months
- ✓ Does not actively reach for objects by 6 months
- ✓ Does not follow objects with both eyes
- ✓ Does not bear some weight on legs by 5 months

COMMENTS:

DATE
OBSERVED

LANGUAGE MILESTONES (cont)

- ✓ Babbles “dada” and “mama” (8-10 mos.)
- ✓ Says “dada” and “mama” for specific person (11-12 mos.)
- ✓ Uses exclamations such as “oh-oh”

SOCIAL/EMOTIONAL

- ✓ Shy or anxious with strangers (8-12 mos.)
- ✓ Cries when mother or father leaves (8-12 mos.)
- ✓ Enjoys imitating people in his play (10-12 mos.)
- ✓ Shows specific preferences for certain people and toys (8-12 mos.)
- ✓ Prefers mother and/or regular care provider over all others (8-12 mos.)
- ✓ Repeats sounds or gestures for attention (10-12 mos.)
- ✓ Finger-feeds himself (8-12 mos.)
- ✓ Extends arm or leg to help when being dressed

DEVELOPMENTAL RED FLAGS (8 TO 12 MONTHS)

- ✓ Does not crawl
- ✓ Drags one side of body while crawling (for over one month)
- ✓ Cannot stand when supported
- ✓ Does not search for objects that are hidden (10-12 mos.)
- ✓ Says no single words (“mama” or “dada”)
- ✓ Does not learn to use gestures such as waving or shaking head
- ✓ Does not sit steadily by 10 months
- ✓ Does not show interest in “peek-a-boo” or “patty cake” by 8 mos.
- ✓ Does not babble by 8 mos. (“dada,” “baba,” “mama”)

COMMENTS:

DEVELOPMENTAL CHECKLIST - 12 TO 24 MONTHS

CHILD'S NAME: _____

DATE OF BIRTH: _____

PARENT OR GUARDIAN: _____

DATE
OBSERVED

MOVEMENT

- ✓ Walks alone (12-16 mos.)
- ✓ Pulls toys behind him while walking (13-16 mos.)
- ✓ Carries large toy or several toys while walking (12-15 mos.)
- ✓ Begins to run stiffly (16-18 mos.)
- ✓ Walks into ball (18-24 mos.)
- ✓ Climbs onto and down from furniture unsupported (16-24 mos.)
- ✓ Walks up and down stairs holding on to support (18-24 mos.)

HAND AND FINGER SKILLS

- ✓ Scribbles spontaneously (14-16 mos.)
- ✓ Turns over container to pour out contents (12-18 mos.)
- ✓ Builds tower of four blocks or more (20-24 mos.)

LANGUAGE

- ✓ Points to object or picture when it's named for them (18-24 mos.)
- ✓ Recognizes names of familiar people, objects, and body parts (18-24 mos.)
- ✓ Says several single words (15-18 mos.)
- ✓ Uses two-word sentences (18-24 mos.)
- ✓ Follows simple, one-step instructions (14-18 mos.)
- ✓ Repeats words overheard in conversations (16-18 mos.)

COGNITIVE

- ✓ Finds objects even when hidden under 2 or 3 covers
- ✓ Begins to sort shapes and colors (20-24 mos.)
- ✓ Begins make-believe play (20-24 mos.)

SOCIAL

- ✓ Imitates behavior of others, especially adults and older children (18-24 mos.)
- ✓ Increasingly enthusiastic about company or other children (20-24 mos.)
- ✓ Demonstrates increasing independence (18-24 mos.)
- ✓ Begins to show defiant behavior (18-24 mos.)
- ✓ Episodes of separation anxiety increase toward midyear, then fade

DEVELOPMENTAL RED FLAGS (12 TO 24 MONTHS)

- ✓ Cannot walk by 18 months
- ✓ Fails to develop a mature heel-toe walking pattern after several months of walking, or walks exclusively on toes
- ✓ Does not speak at least 15 words by 18 months
- ✓ Does not use two-word sentences by age 2
- ✓ By 15 months does not seem to know the function of common household objects (brush, telephone, bell, fork, spoon)
- ✓ Does not imitate actions or words by 24 mos.
- ✓ Does not follow simple one-step instructions by 24 mos.

COMMENTS:

DATE
OBSERVED

COGNITIVE

- ✓ Makes mechanical toys work (30-36 mos.)
- ✓ Matches an object in hand or room to a picture in a book (24-30 mos.)
- ✓ Plays make-believe with dolls, animals, and people (24-36 mos.)
- ✓ Sorts objects by color (30-36 mos.)
- ✓ Completes puzzles with 3 or 4 pieces (24-36 mos.)
- ✓ Understands concept of "two" (26-32 mos.)

SOCIAL/EMOTIONAL

- ✓ Separates easily from parents (by 36 mo.)
- ✓ Expresses a wide range of emotions (24-36 mos.)
- ✓ Objects to major changes in routine (24-36 mos.)

DEVELOPMENTAL RED FLAGS (24 TO 36 MONTHS)

- ✓ Frequent falling and difficulty with stairs
- ✓ Persistent drooling or very unclear speech
- ✓ Inability to build a tower of more than 4 blocks
- ✓ Difficulty manipulating small objects
- ✓ Inability to copy a circle by 3 years old
- ✓ Inability to communicate in short phrases
- ✓ No involvement in pretend play
- ✓ Failure to understand simple instructions
- ✓ Little interest in other children
- ✓ Extreme difficulty separating from primary caregiver

COMMENTS:

DEVELOPMENTAL CHECKLIST - 3 TO 4 YEARS

CHILD'S NAME: _____

DATE OF BIRTH: _____

PARENT OR GUARDIAN: _____

DATE
OBSERVED

MOVEMENT

- ✓ Hops and stands on one foot up to 5 seconds
- ✓ Goes upstairs and downstairs without support
- ✓ Kicks ball forward
- ✓ Throws ball overhand
- ✓ Catches bounced ball most of the time
- ✓ Moves forward and backward
- ✓ Uses riding toys

HAND AND FINGER SKILLS

- ✓ Copies square shapes
- ✓ Draws a person with 2-4 body parts
- ✓ Uses scissors
- ✓ Draws circles and squares
- ✓ Begins to copy some capital letters
- ✓ Can feed self with spoon

LANGUAGE MILESTONES

- ✓ Understands the concepts of "same" and "different"
- ✓ Has mastered some basic rules of grammar
- ✓ Speaks in sentences of 5-6 words
- ✓ Asks questions
- ✓ Speaks clearly enough for strangers to understand
- ✓ Tells stories

COGNITIVE MILESTONES

- ✓ Correctly names some colors
- ✓ Understands the concept of counting and may know a few numbers
- ✓ Begins to have a clearer sense of time
- ✓ Follows three-part commands
- ✓ Recalls parts of a story
- ✓ Understands the concept of same/different

DEVELOPMENTAL CHECKLIST - 4 TO 5 YEARS

CHILD'S NAME: _____

DATE OF BIRTH: _____

PARENT OR GUARDIAN: _____

DATE
OBSERVED

MOVEMENT

- ✓ Stands on one foot for 10 seconds or longer
- ✓ Hops, somersaults
- ✓ Swings, climbs
- ✓ May be able to skip

MILESTONES IN HAND AND FINGER SKILLS

- ✓ Copies triangle and other geometric patterns
- ✓ Draws person with body
- ✓ Prints some letters
- ✓ Dresses and undresses without assistance
- ✓ Uses fork, spoon
- ✓ Usually cares for own toilet needs

LANGUAGE MILESTONES

- ✓ Recalls parts of a story
- ✓ Speaks sentences of more than 5 words
- ✓ Uses future tense
- ✓ Tells longer stories
- ✓ Says name and address

COGNITIVE MILESTONES

- ✓ Can count 10 or more objects
- ✓ Correctly names at least 4 colors
- ✓ Better understands the concept of time
- ✓ Knows about things used every day in the home (money, food, etc.)

SOCIAL MILESTONES

- ✓ Wants to please and be with friends
- ✓ More likely to agree to rules
- ✓ Likes to sing, dance, and act
- ✓ Shows more independence

