

The Sooner We Start The Farther They'll Go

When something about your child seems unusual or worrisome, it's important to address your concerns as soon as possible. Warning signs are just that – warnings. They don't necessarily mean that there are problems. However, if you're concerned about your child there are steps you can take.

- Observe how your child is developing compared to children of the same age.
- If you have a concern about your child's development, a free screening may be arranged through your local school district or Child & Family Connections.

About Early Intervention Services

Early intervention services provided during the first three years of life may help children by

- Encouraging and supporting development
- Preventing diagnosed conditions from becoming more severe
- Improving the overall functioning of children who have delays or are at high risk of becoming developmentally delayed
- Providing families with support and information

Early Intervention Services May Include:

- Developmental screening and evaluation
- Physical therapy, occupational therapy and speech therapy
- Parent support, education and training
- Family and individual counseling

What Age Should My Child . . .



A Guide To Your Child's Development

Developed By



If you have concerns about your child's development, for a free screening you can call:

Child & Family Connections #2

2424 Washington Street, Suite 210
Waukegan, Illinois 60085
(847) 360-7353
(847) 360-3176 – fax
(888) 539-3033 – toll free

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	MOVEMENT		PLAY		FEEDING/LANGUAGE	
	Expected Behavior	Potential Risks	Expected Behavior	Potential Risks	Expected Behavior	Potential Risks
3 months	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pushes up on arms Holds head up 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unable to lift head when on stomach Stiffens one side of body when head is turned 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Notices own hands Smiles to sound of parent's voice 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No response to voice/sounds Does not follow toys with eyes Tightly fistted hands with thumbs tucked in 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strong suck Begins cooing Looks at adult's face 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Weak or absent suck No response to parent's face
6 months	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sits with support Holds head up Sits with straight back When held in standing position, bares partial weight through legs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sits with rounded back Unable to lift head When held in standing position, legs are stiff and crossed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cuddles Reaches for and grabs toy Puts objects in mouth Moves toy from hand to hand Plays with own hands, feet, fingers and toes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Over or under sensitive to touch Does not reach or hold toys Constant crying, irritability 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Eats strained foods Laughing, squealing Begins babbling Coos to music Feeds self crackers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No reaction to music, sounds Tongue thrust or protruding tongue Head strongly arched back or head flops forward Not making any sounds
8 months	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sits alone Hands free for play Rocks on hands and knees 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sits with rounded/arched back In standing position, will not take weight on legs Unable to let go of a toy purposefully 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plays peek a boo Operated cause and effect toys Finds hidden objects Looks for family/peers when named 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Poor use of arms for play Disregards toys with sounds Does not use eyes to follow moving toy Easily distracted or loses interest in toy immediately 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Most children start table foods Responds to own name Shouts for attention Waves or responds to bye-bye 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gags easily—chokes when eating Cannot completely close lips around food Hard to change from milk to solid foods Doesn't seek adult's attention
12 months	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pulls to stand alone Cruises furniture Crawls on hands and knees 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Does not pull to stand Pulls to stand with arms but drags stiff crossed legs up from behind 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Can pretend play Puts objects into a container Responds to "no no" Hands toys back to an adult 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Does not recognize or respond to familiar people Uses one arm or hand for all play 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Feeds self with fingers Says first words Drinks from a cup Says Mama and Dada 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gags easily Chokes when eating Does not understand any words
15 months	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Independent standing Most children are walking 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Walks on toes Holds one side of body stiff Keeps weight shifted to one side in sitting Unable to stand or take steps with support 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Points with index finger Scribbles Gets a toy from another room when asked Helps turn pages 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Uses whole hand rather than one finger to point Cannot manipulate pages of a book Doesn't like swinging Doesn't play well with others 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Speaks at least 15 words Knows function of household objects Names desired objects at table during meals Points to one body part Begins use of fork and spoon 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Limited or no words Has problems chewing Limits self to certain food textures Does not communicate wants and needs (even non-verbally)
24 months	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Walks upstairs holding rail Runs with coordination Kicks a ball 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clumsy on stairs Stiff arms and legs One side of body works better than the other 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stacks 4 nesting blocks Catches a large ball Recognizes self in photo Turns pages one at a time 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Difficulty playing with small objects Does not look at a task Over sensitive to various textures 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Speaks 2 word phrases Speaks 250 words Uses own name to refer to self Follows simple directions Listens to short stories 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hard to understand child's speech Quiet child even around music and noise Responds to voice only when looking at face
30 months	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jumps in place with both feet Rides a tricycle Imitates one foot standing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Arms work better than legs Can't keep up with peers Clumsy or awkward Trips often 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Copies a circle Builds an 8 cube tower Sorts shapes—circles, squares and triangles 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Holds one arm stiff while playing with the other arm Uses touch and not sight to sort objects 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identifies several body parts/pictures Uses utensils to eat by own self Follows two step directions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Constant drooling Poor lip closure; gags easily Does not combine words Does not identify body parts or objects Echoes sound without understanding
At Risk Behavior	Significant Signs of Developmental Problems: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Arching back of head and body Stiffening of arms and legs that is hard to move out of Rounded back in sitting after 3 to 4 months old Stiffness or weakness in one leg and one arm Stiff, crossed legs when held in standing position Poor head control after 3 months Will not take weight on legs by 8 months old 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Constantly fistted hands, especially with thumb tucked in Can't let go of toy once it is in child's hand after 5 months Can't bring hands together by 5 to 6 months Cannot follow toy with eyes up and down, back and forth by 3 months Does not respond to sounds from behind or the side Stiffens body and cries with loud sounds or sudden movement 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tongue thrust-strongly pushing tongue out when mouth is open Weak suck Bites hard and can't let go Excessive drooling or drooling beyond the teething stage Gags easily Avoids eye contact Chokes often when eating 	