

## Child Development and Signs of Loss, Abuse, or Neglect

This chart can help you to identify developmental delays. Look for the age group nearest to your child's age and decide if the child is able to accomplish the healthy child development tasks in that age range. If a child cannot, look over the indicators of loss, abuse, and neglect. Observe the child for those signs. You must consult with a physician or other professional about the child's development if you have any concerns/questions. This chart is not a rigid timetable. Each child is different - some may perform tasks earlier or later than this chart indicates. Note any significant delays in development.

SIGNS OF HEALTHY CHILD DEVELOPMENT	SIGNS OF LOSS, ABUSE, OR NEGLECT
<p><b>BIRTH TO 3 MONTHS</b></p> <p><b>Posture and movement</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Supports himself on his forearms when in a lying position</li> <li>• When lying on his stomach, lifts his head steadily; does not bob and weave</li> </ul> <p><b>Use of fingers and hands</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hands are usually open at rest</li> <li>• Pulls at his clothing</li> </ul> <p><b>Sounds/language</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Laughs or makes happy noises</li> <li>• Turns his head to sounds</li> </ul> <p><b>Social skills</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Smiles at you</li> <li>• Reaches for familiar people or objects</li> </ul> <p><b>Awareness</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stares at or reaches out to touch items (such as faces, patterns)</li> <li>• Looks at his hands or feet for at least five seconds</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Does not cry or cries very weakly</li> <li>• Cries at a very high pitch</li> <li>• Screams all the time</li> <li>• Does not react to pain, noise, lights or attention</li> <li>• Has trouble breathing (noisy, raspy, gurgling sounds)</li> <li>• Has a hard time sucking, eating, swallowing</li> <li>• Vomits frequently and has a hard time keeping food down</li> <li>• Has eyes that are often red or watery</li> <li>• Does not lie in different positions at six months</li> </ul>

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<p><b>3-6 MONTHS</b></p> <p><b>Posture and movement</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lifts his head while lying on his back</li> <li>• Rolls from back to front</li> </ul> <p><b>Use of fingers and hands</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Transfers a toy from one hand to the other</li> <li>• Picks up small objects</li> </ul> <p><b>Sounds/language</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• “Babbles,” repeats sounds together (for example, mum-mum-mum)</li> <li>• Frightened by angry noises</li> </ul> <p><b>Social skills</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stretches arms out to be picked up</li> <li>• Shows likes and dislikes</li> </ul> <p><b>Awareness</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recognizes a bottle by reaching, smiling, babbling or ceasing to cry</li> <li>• Shakes a toy or object to make a sound</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rocks constantly in corner, playpen or crib</li> <li>• Does not smile when familiar people approach</li> <li>• Bumps head on pillow while trying to get to sleep</li> <li>• Always bumps into things</li> <li>• Squints to see things, holds objects close to the eyes or doesn't try to reach for objects</li> <li>• Rocks back and forth for long periods of time, waving fingers in front of eyes</li> <li>• Sleeps for a very long time</li> <li>• At six months of age, is still cross-eyed, rolls the eyes around or does not follow things with both eyes</li> </ul>
<p><b>6-9 MONTHS</b></p> <p><b>Posture and movement</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sits for long periods of time without support</li> <li>• Pulls up on furniture</li> </ul> <p><b>Use of fingers and hands</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Picks up objects with thumb and one finger</li> <li>• Can finger-feed any foods</li> </ul> <p><b>Sounds/language</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Understands “no-no” and “bye-bye”</li> <li>• Imitates any sounds or words if you make them first</li> </ul> <p><b>Social Skills</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hold own bottle</li> <li>• Plays simple games such as “peek-a-boo” and bye-bye</li> </ul> <p><b>Awareness</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A. Dumps objects out of a box</li> <li>• B. Looks for and uncovers a toy he has hidden</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Does not turn toward sounds</li> <li>• Has earaches and shows this by crying or putting hand near the ear (there may be a runny fluid coming from the ear)</li> <li>• Cannot focus on caretaker's eyes or face</li> <li>• Often has a high temperature</li> <li>• Has skin rashes often</li> <li>• At six months does not hold head steady when supported</li> <li>• At nine months of age, cannot: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• balance head</li> <li>• sit alone when placed in a sitting position</li> <li>• pick up small objects</li> <li>• vocalize with expression</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

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<p><b>9-12 MONTHS</b></p> <p><b>Posture and movement</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Takes steps when you hold his hands</li> <li>• Turns around while sitting</li> </ul> <p><b>Use of fingers and hands</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Throws toys or objects</li> <li>• Gives you objects (lets go) easily</li> </ul> <p><b>Speech/language</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Has at least one meaning-word other than “mama” or “dada”</li> <li>• Shakes his head for “no”</li> </ul> <p><b>Social Skills</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Helps you dress him by holding up his feet when you put on his socks or by lifting his arms when you put on his top</li> <li>• Comes when called</li> </ul> <p><b>Awareness</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Interested in looking at pictures</li> <li>• Recognizes familiar faces</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• At 9-months of age, cannot             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• balance head</li> <li>• sit alone when placed in a sitting position</li> <li>• pick up small objects</li> <li>• vocalize with expression</li> </ul> </li> <li>• At one year of age, never points to anything or responds to people or toys.</li> </ul>
<p><b>12-18 MONTHS</b></p> <p><b>Posture and Movement</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Climbs stairs with help</li> <li>• Walks alone</li> </ul> <p><b>Use of fingers and hands</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Turns book pages 2-3 at a time</li> <li>• Fills a spoon and feeds himself</li> </ul> <p><b>Speech/language</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Has at least 6 real words besides baby talk</li> <li>• Points at what he wants</li> </ul> <p><b>Social Skills</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Copies you in routine tasks (sweeping, etc.)</li> <li>• Shows likes and dislikes</li> </ul> <p><b>Awareness</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Uses his tip-toes to touch objects out of reach</li> <li>• Points to body parts on a doll when asked “show me” eyes, nose, mouth, etc.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Has trouble controlling arms and legs</li> <li>• Falls often, walks poorly or can’t walk at all by 22 months of age</li> <li>• Holds one hand at side and never uses it for picking up or holding toys</li> <li>• Has stiff arms, legs or neck</li> <li>• Drools all the time</li> <li>• May sleep often during the day</li> <li>• Shows signs of seizures - often faints, wets and soils pants even though toilet trained, lies on the floor with arms and legs stiff, then jerks arms and legs around with back arched, then sleeps dreamily</li> <li>• Has many skin rashes, lumps or sores</li> </ul>

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<p><b>18-24 MONTHS</b></p> <p><b>Posture and movement</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Runs without falling</li> <li>• Walks up and down a step alone</li> </ul> <p><b>Use of fingers and hands</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Turns book pages one at a time</li> <li>• Child pulls up and down his pants or takes off his shoes</li> </ul> <p><b>Speech/language</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Talks in short (two-or three-word) sentences</li> <li>• Uses “me”, “you”, or “mine” when referring to himself or you</li> </ul> <p><b>Social skills</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Makes simple requests such as asking for juice or to play certain games.</li> <li>• Plays in the company of other children</li> </ul> <p><b>Awareness</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Counts to three</li> <li>• Follows simple two-part instructions (“bring me your...and your...”)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Refuses to eat for three or more days</li> <li>• Coughs constantly</li> <li>• Has continual diarrhea</li> <li>• Is unusually pale and skin is cold</li> <li>• Suddenly becomes dizzy, vomits, sleeps, wets or has a headache</li> <li>• Squints or holds objects close to see them</li> <li>• Rolls eyes around, is cross-eyed or doesn’t use both eyes to follow objects</li> <li>• Doesn’t point to, wave back to or imitate others</li> <li>• Doesn’t look at colorful, eye-catching objects</li> <li>• Often waves fingers in front of eyes</li> <li>• Does not react to sudden loud sounds</li> </ul>
<p><b>2 TO 2 AND A HALF YEARS</b></p> <p><b>Posture and movement</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jumps with both feet off the floor</li> <li>• Throws a ball</li> </ul> <p><b>Use of fingers and hands</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Moves and places small objects, such as unbuttoning buttons</li> <li>• Marks with a pencil or crayon</li> </ul> <p><b>Speech/Language</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Uses plural or past tense</li> <li>• Uses “I,” or “me” when talking about himself</li> </ul> <p><b>Social skills</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gives his name or nickname if asked</li> <li>• Drinks from a cup without help</li> </ul> <p><b>Awareness</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stacks items on top of each other</li> <li>• Names five familiar objects</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Complains of itching or burning eyes or of seeing double</li> <li>• Frequently complains of headaches or dizziness</li> <li>• Has many earaches or has a runny fluid coming from the ear</li> <li>• Has little voice control</li> <li>• Bumps head on pillow in bed to go to sleep</li> <li>• Does not walk or talk by three years of age</li> <li>• Has trouble understanding or remembering simple directions</li> <li>• Does not respond to simple questions or directions</li> </ul>

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<p><b>2 - 2 AND A HALF TO 3 YEARS</b></p> <p><b>Posture and movement</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hops on one foot for two or more hops</li> <li>• Stands on one foot for about two seconds</li> </ul> <p><b>Use of fingers and hands</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Puts on and takes off his shoes if the shoes do not have shoelaces</li> <li>• Takes off his clothes if he is wearing a simple outfit (one without buttons or zippers)</li> </ul> <p><b>Speech/Language</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tells little stories about something he has done or somewhere he has been</li> <li>• Tells you that he or she is a boy or a girl</li> </ul> <p><b>Social skills</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Likes to give orders</li> <li>• Plays well with one other child</li> </ul> <p><b>Awareness</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Points to the girl in a picture of boy and girl</li> <li>• Asks questions frequently</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Has trouble doing many skills which require eye-hand coordination, such as scribbling on paper with a crayon</li> <li>• Does not seem to enjoy being held or touched</li> <li>• Does not know body parts</li> <li>• Often hurts own self by hitting or biting</li> <li>• Rocks back and forth for long periods of time</li> <li>• Does the same movement over and over, such as waving arms and legs</li> <li>• Says the same thing over and over, or only repeats words after hearing them from another person</li> </ul>
<p><b>3-4 YEARS</b></p> <p><b>Posture and movement</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Attempts to hop or skip</li> <li>• Kicks a ball</li> </ul> <p><b>Use of hands and fingers</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Picks up small objects easily</li> <li>• Throws large ball without losing balance</li> </ul> <p><b>Speech/Language</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Says a song or poem from memory</li> <li>• Names three colors</li> </ul> <p><b>Social skills</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tells tales or shows off</li> <li>• Beginning to learn to take turns during games</li> </ul> <p><b>Awareness</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recognizes differences in size, shape and color</li> <li>• Beginning to understand the difference between yesterday, today and tomorrow</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• At three or four years of age, does not play with other children and prefers to be alone in the corner or in bed</li> <li>• At three or four years of age, cannot throw or kick a ball.</li> <li>• At three or four years of age, cannot run, jump or balance on one foot</li> </ul>

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<p><b>4-5 YEARS</b></p> <p><b>Posture and movement</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hops on one foot for four to six hops</li> <li>• Favors his hands over his arms when catching a small ball</li> </ul> <p><b>Use of fingers and hands</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Draws a picture of a person with a head, body, arms and legs</li> <li>• Uses blunt-nosed scissors</li> </ul> <p><b>Speech/Language</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enjoys jokes, silly or funny books and silly language</li> <li>• Asks why, when and how questions</li> </ul> <p><b>Social skills</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Has an imaginary playmate or friend</li> <li>• Loves to whisper and has secrets</li> </ul> <p><b>Awareness</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Matches and names four of these colors: red, orange, yellow, green, blue or purple</li> <li>• Picks out the biggest and the longest of three objects</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cannot hop on one foot for several hops</li> <li>• Cannot draw a picture of a person with the head, body, arms and legs</li> <li>• Does not ask questions</li> <li>• Cannot match and/or name basic colors</li> </ul>

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<p><b>5-6 YEARS</b></p> <p><b>Posture and movement</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Alternates feet when skipping</li> <li>• Bends and touches toes without bending knees</li> </ul> <p><b>Use of fingers and hands</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Copies a circle or a square</li> <li>• Favors one hand over the other (right-handed or left-handed)</li> </ul> <p><b>Speech/Language</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recites or sings rhymes, jingles or television commercials</li> <li>• Interested in learning new words and constantly asking what words mean</li> </ul> <p><b>Social skills</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Shows an interest in making friends with other children</li> <li>• Does activities (other than watch TV) by himself for up to 30 minutes</li> </ul> <p><b>Awareness</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Developing a sense of time (days, months, minutes, bedtime, etc.)</li> <li>• Understands the use of "space" words such as back, front, over, under, in, on, up, etc.</li> </ul>	<p>School-aged children who show any of the same warning signs as infants, toddlers, preschoolers, or kindergartners may need special attention. Other signs of possible problems for school-aged children are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Is overweight or underweight</li> <li>• Has consistent bad breath and a severe sore throat</li> <li>• Has an injury that leads to dizziness, vomiting, headache or sleepiness</li> <li>• Is not able to see objects or books clearly</li> <li>• Complains of frequent headaches or dizziness</li> <li>• Has frequent sties or other eye irritations</li> <li>• Complains of eyes that burn, itch, swell or water</li> <li>• Squints and rubs eyes often</li> <li>• Is easily distracted</li> <li>• Asks for words to be repeated or stays near you and frequently watches your lips when you speak</li> <li>• Speaks very little and uses only a few words</li> <li>• Has frequent earaches</li> </ul>

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<p><b>6-7 YEARS</b></p> <p><b>Posture and movement</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Descends stairs, alternating feet</li> <li>• Moves rhythmically to music</li> </ul> <p><b>Use of fingers and hands</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Draws a recognizable picture of a house with windows, door(s) and a roof</li> <li>• Holds his pencil or crayon in an adult fashion (between thumb and first finger)</li> </ul> <p><b>Speech/Language</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Explains the rules of a simple game such as tag or kickball</li> <li>• Gives his full name and age</li> </ul> <p><b>Social skills</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Follows through on promises and does things for others</li> <li>• Demonstrates a sense of humor</li> </ul> <p><b>Awareness</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Beginning to understand words that indicate quantity and size, such as half-whole big-little more-less and shortest-tallest</li> <li>• Matches 10 colors</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Leans toward a sound or requires voices or music to be louder than normal</li> <li>• Does not come when called or does not follow directions</li> <li>• Appears confused or frustrated when asked to try something new</li> <li>• By age six, cannot dress self</li> <li>• By age six, cannot identify shapes or colors</li> <li>• By age six, cannot follow simple rules or directions</li> <li>• By age seven, cannot print own name</li> <li>• By age seven, cannot count from one to 100</li> <li>• Needs to have new ideas repeated often and in many different ways</li> <li>• Fights often with other children</li> <li>• Is unusually shy or withdrawn</li> <li>• Fears new experiences and people</li> <li>• Is unable to handle changes</li> <li>• Is often depressed and unhappy</li> <li>• Is unable to receive or show affection</li> <li>• Refuses to eat for a long period of time</li> <li>• Lies, cheats, or steals frequently</li> <li>• Is constantly negative about self, school, day care or home</li> </ul>