

Developmental Continuum of Skills

INFANT • TODDLER

Individual children develop at a unique pace.

		Infant		Toddler		Preschool	
Skill	Goal	Benchmark A	Benchmark B	Benchmark B	Benchmark C	Benchmark C	Benchmark C
Social and Emotional Development	1 Self Concept	1.1 Expresses preference	Responds to name and explores self in mirror.	Repeats actions to obtain similar preferred results.	Expresses likes and dislikes.	Expresses likes and dislikes.	Expresses likes and dislikes.
		1.2 Takes responsibility	Responds as caregiver takes care of his/her needs.	Participates in daily routines or familiar activities.	Asserts a desire to start or end an activity. Asks for help.	Asserts a desire to start or end an activity. Asks for help.	Asserts a desire to start or end an activity. Asks for help.
		1.3 Identifies and manages feelings	Calms with support from caretaker.	Shows a range of emotions with facial expressions and gestures. Soothes self.	Experiments and role-plays with a range of emotions.	Experiments and role-plays with a range of emotions.	Experiments and role-plays with a range of emotions.
	2 Self Direction	2.1 Follows rules and routines	Reacts to tone of voice and expression.	Cooperates during familiar routines and redirection.	With prompting, follows rules and routines.	With prompting, follows rules and routines.	With prompting, follows rules and routines.
		2.2 Maintains attention	Focuses for a short time when others interact with him/her.	Attends to what others are looking at or pointing to.	Focuses on an engaging activity for a short period of time independently or with an adult.	Focuses on an engaging activity for a short period of time independently or with an adult.	Focuses on an engaging activity for a short period of time independently or with an adult.
		2.3 Transitions and adapts	Reacts to changes in routine.	Responds to cues that signal a change in the daily routine.	Anticipates what comes next within a daily routine. Redirects to a new activity with help from caregivers.	Anticipates what comes next within a daily routine. Redirects to a new activity with help from caregivers.	Anticipates what comes next within a daily routine. Redirects to a new activity with help from caregivers.
	3 Social Relationships	3.1 Builds positive relationships	Connects with caregivers through eye contact and gentle touch.	Greets and stays near familiar people.	Plays side-by-side with a new or familiar person.	Plays side-by-side with a new or familiar person.	Plays side-by-side with a new or familiar person.
		3.2 Cooperates	Enjoys turn-taking games, such as peek-a-boo.	Mimics actions of others.	Helps or participates in an activity when asked.	Helps or participates in an activity when asked.	Helps or participates in an activity when asked.
		3.3 Cares for and responds to others	Reacts to others' behaviors and expressions.	Mimics facial expressions of others.	Demonstrates concern for someone who is sad or upset.	Demonstrates concern for someone who is sad or upset.	Demonstrates concern for someone who is sad or upset.
Physical Development	4 Gross Motor	4.1 Builds strength and balance	Sits independently and pulls self into a standing position.	Walks and climbs.	Runs and balances on a wide beam.	Runs and balances on a wide beam.	
		4.2 Coordinates large movements	Kicks or grabs from a seated or laying position.	Carries, drags, kicks and tosses objects.	Throws objects in an intended direction. Catches objects against body.	Throws objects in an intended direction. Catches objects against body.	
	5 Fine Motor	5.1 Controls small movements	Reaches for objects in sight.	Manipulates objects with purpose, such as feeding self with a spoon.	Opens, closes, twists and pulls objects.	Opens, closes, twists and pulls objects.	
		5.2 Uses drawing/writing tools	Picks up small objects with thumb and pointer finger (pincher grasp).	Purposefully grasps and releases objects. Makes random marks with writing tools.	Holds drawing/writing tools with whole hand and may use whole arm to make intentional marks.	Holds drawing/writing tools with whole hand and may use whole arm to make intentional marks.	
	6 Health and Safety	6.1 Makes healthy food and exercise choices	Cries when hungry or tired.	Communicates when hungry, thirsty, or tired.	Anticipates the need to eat, rest and drink.	Anticipates the need to eat, rest and drink.	
		6.2 Practices good hygiene	Receives appropriate healthcare from caregivers.	Recognizes the difference between dirty and clean. Points to body parts when prompted.	With help, participates in healthy habits and healthcare routines. Names body parts.	With help, participates in healthy habits and healthcare routines. Names body parts.	
Language and Literacy	7 Listening Comprehension	7.1 Comprehends spoken language	Turns head toward the person speaking and makes gestures and/or vocalizations in response.	When prompted, identifies familiar people or objects.	Responds to simple statements and questions.	Responds to simple statements and questions.	
		7.2 Follows verbal directions	Responds to conversation in environment and imitates actions.	With prompts and gestures, follows a one-step direction.	Follows related two-step directions given verbally.	Follows related two-step directions given verbally.	
	8 Communication	8.1 Communicates ideas	Uses vocal sounds and gestures to communicate.	Uses a few words and word-like sounds to communicate.	Communicates needs, desires and ideas using simple sentences.	Communicates needs, desires and ideas using simple sentences.	
		8.2 Speaks in sentences	Duplicates single sounds.	Says one- to two-word sentences.	Says two- to four-word sentences and repeats short phrases.	Says two- to four-word sentences and repeats short phrases.	
	9 Vocabulary	9.1 Builds vocabulary	Makes noises and gestures to communicate.	Repeats words heard frequently in environment.	Identifies familiar people, places, and objects. Asks what a specific person or object are called.	Identifies familiar people, places, and objects. Asks what a specific person or object are called.	
	10 Phonological Awareness	10.1 Hears small units of sound	Babbles and vocalizes using sound, volume and inflection.	Imitates sounds and tones.	Shows awareness of separate words in spoken language.	Shows awareness of separate words in spoken language.	
		10.2 Identifies rhyme and alliteration	Hears rhyming songs and games.	Repeats the last word in familiar rhymes when prompted.	Suggests a missing rhyming word within a poem or song.	Suggests a missing rhyming word within a poem or song.	
	11 Concepts of Print	11.1 Demonstrates print knowledge	Looks or points to pictures and opens/closes books.	Recognizes if pictures are right-side up. Turns pages from front to back of book.	Identifies the front/back and top/bottom of a book. Indicates where to start reading on each page.	Identifies the front/back and top/bottom of a book. Indicates where to start reading on each page.	
	12 Letter/Word Recognition	12.1 Identifies letters and words	Looks for familiar people and objects when given their names.	Identifies a familiar object or person when shown a drawing or photo.	Recognizes the difference between pictures, letters and numbers in print.	Recognizes the difference between pictures, letters and numbers in print.	
		12.2 Makes letter-sound connections	Babbles or repeats sounds.	Points at words printed on a page and pretends to read aloud.	Recognizes the sound of the first letter in his/her name.	Recognizes the sound of the first letter in his/her name.	
	13 Reading Comprehension	13.1 Responds to text	Interacts by reaching or patting when a book is read.	Points to pictures and repeats words from familiar stories.	Talks about pictures and ideas in familiar stories.	Talks about pictures and ideas in familiar stories.	
		13.2 Retells, asks and answers questions	Holds book and looks intently at each page.	Answers "Where is...?" questions by pointing.	Answers "What...?" questions about stories and books. Recalls the name of the main character.	Answers "What...?" questions about stories and books. Recalls the name of the main character.	
	14 Emergent Writing	14.1 Writes name, words and sentences	Grips a writing utensil and uses it with help.	Makes continuous marks with writing tools.	Writes letter-like forms and creates his/her own symbols.	Writes letter-like forms and creates his/her own symbols.	
		14.2 Expresses through writing	Explores writing materials.	Makes marks or handprints on paper.	Scribbles or draws marks as a representation of an object or person.	Scribbles or draws marks as a representation of an object or person.	
Mathematics and Reasoning	15 Number Concepts	15.1 Identifies numerals	Hears numbers in everyday context.	Recognizes the numeral one and sees other numerals around the room.	Recognizes numerals to three.	Recognizes numerals to three.	
		15.2 Counts to determine quantity	Hears rote counting.	Verbally counts (not always in correct order).	Points to one object at a time while counting (not always in correct order).	Points to one object at a time while counting (not always in correct order).	
		15.3 Understands operations	Looks for an object that is taken out of sight.	Demonstrates an understanding of one, two and more.	Creates groups of objects. Adds and removes to group as prompted.	Creates groups of objects. Adds and removes to group as prompted.	
	16 Shapes	16.1 Identifies shapes	Manipulates objects that are a variety of shapes.	Matches two identical shapes.	Identifies a few basic shapes.	Identifies a few basic shapes.	
		16.2 Manipulates parts and wholes	Tries to put one object inside of another.	Fills container and then dumps out the contents.	Puts together two to three pieces to create a whole object.	Puts together two to three pieces to create a whole object.	
	17 Spatial Awareness	17.1 Flips and rotates objects	Plays with objects and toys that are a variety of shapes.	Purposefully turns or spins objects.	Recognizes familiar objects that are up-side down and turns them right-side up.	Recognizes familiar objects that are up-side down and turns them right-side up.	
		17.2 Determines object location	Participates as caregiver raises arms or legs and says up/down.	Follows simple positional directions such as on/off, over/under and up/down.	When prompted, finds or places objects next to, between, in front of or behind self.	When prompted, finds or places objects next to, between, in front of or behind self.	
	18 Patterns and Sorting	18.1 Identifies and creates patterns	Plays predictable activities with caregivers such as patty-cake and peek-a-boo.	Attempts to mimic vocal and physical patterns.	Copies patterns with two steps, such as red-blue, red-blue.	Copies patterns with two steps, such as red-blue, red-blue.	
		18.2 Matches, sorts and charts	Recognizes familiar people and objects.	When shown one object, finds the match.	Sort objects by one feature, such as size or color.	Sort objects by one feature, such as size or color.	
	19 Measurement	19.1 Estimates and measures	Recognizes when to use whole hand or just two fingers to pick up an object.	Explores size and weight of objects in relation to self.	Determines which object is bigger (heavier, longer) when given two objects.	Determines which object is bigger (heavier, longer) when given two objects.	
19.2 Compares and seriates		Picks up and puts down objects. Demonstrates an understanding of more.	Places objects in a line. Demonstrates an understanding of more, none and one.	Compares and orders two to three objects according to size, length, hue or weight.	Compares and orders two to three objects according to size, length, hue or weight.		
20 Logic	20.1 Solves problems	Reacts to a problem and seeks a desired outcome.	Experiments with cause and effect.	Recognizes a problem and asks for help.	Recognizes a problem and asks for help.		
Social Studies	21 Families and Communities	21.1 Identifies community and family roles	Responds to primary caregivers.	Recognizes the difference between a familiar and unfamiliar person.	Identifies familiar people and pets.	Identifies familiar people and pets.	
		21.2 Explores cultures and traditions	Is exposed to family traditions or cultural events.	With help, participates in family traditions and customs.	Recognizes familiar symbols or artifacts of family traditions or customs.	Recognizes familiar symbols or artifacts of family traditions or customs.	
		21.3 Respects diversity	Sees diverse features of people in books, toys and media.	Explores people and their features side by side in a book or a mirror.	Identifies physical similarities and differences between self and others.	Identifies physical similarities and differences between self and others.	
	22 Civics and Economics	22.1 Understands citizenship	Attends to others in immediate environment.	Participates in communal activities.	Recognizes and attends to authority figures.	Recognizes and attends to authority figures.	
		22.2 Understands concepts of trade	Grasps and releases objects.	Expresses a desire for an object or action. Says me, mine.	Recognizes ownership of familiar objects.	Recognizes ownership of familiar objects.	
23 Geography	23.1 Identifies types of places	Responds to changes in the immediate environment.	Recognizes familiar places.	Identifies a variety of familiar places, such as the store, car, home or Grandma's.	Identifies a variety of familiar places, such as the store, car, home or Grandma's.		
24 History	24.1 Describes past events	Navigates within a familiar environment.	Finds ways to move around obstacles in a familiar environment.	Follows a path.	Follows a path.		
Science	25 Scientific Reasoning	25.1 Inquires and predicts	Looks for a person or toy that has moved out of sight.	Asks one- to two-word questions.	Identifies personal interests and seeks more information.	Identifies personal interests and seeks more information.	
		25.2 Observes and experiments	Explores cause and effect.	Uses senses to explore environment.	Investigates an object or group of objects in multiple ways.	Investigates an object or group of objects in multiple ways.	
		25.3 Evaluates and infers	Reacts to changes.	Recognizes objects, actions, sounds or people associated with a common use or routine.	Shares discoveries with others.	Shares discoveries with others.	
	26 Life Science	26.1 Identifies basic needs	Responds when physical needs are not met.	Participates in taking care of some personal needs, such as feeding self.	Describes basic personal needs.	Describes basic personal needs.	
		26.2 Classifies organisms	Recognizes self as being separate from others.	Identifies and names familiar people, characters and animals.	Groups living things by common characteristics.	Groups living things by common characteristics.	
	27 Physical Science	27.1 Identifies properties of matter	Uses senses to explore objects in immediate environment.	Reacts to changes in texture, smell, sound or sight.	With support, sorts objects by physical characteristics.	With support, sorts objects by physical characteristics.	
		27.2 Explores forces and motions	Kicks feet or shakes arms to make other objects move.	Uses body to push or pull toys.	Explores motion by moving, rolling, blowing on or dropping a toy.	Explores motion by moving, rolling, blowing on or dropping a toy.	
	28 Earth Science	28.1 Identifies weather and climates	Reacts to weather changes in immediate environment.	Understands hot and cold. Points at clouds and explores the feel of rain and wind.	Notifies changes in temperature or weather in the immediate environment.	Notifies changes in temperature or weather in the immediate environment.	
		28.2 Explores ecosystems	Explores immediate environment using senses.	Plays with rocks, sand, dirt or water. Reacts to animals or insects in immediate environment.	Identifies familiar animals, plants or rocks in immediate environment.	Identifies familiar animals, plants or rocks in immediate environment.	
29 Technology	29.1 Explores technology	Explores simple tools such as toys and spoons.	Begins to use simple tools purposefully, such as using a spoon to feed self.	Explores movable parts on toys and tools. Uses on and off switches.	Explores movable parts on toys and tools. Uses on and off switches.		
Creative Development	30 Music	30.1 Develops rhythm and tone	Responds to sounds.	Responds to changes in sound, rhythm, volume or melody.	Claps to beat (not always consistently). Recognizes the difference between a singing and speaking voice.	Claps to beat (not always consistently). Recognizes the difference between a singing and speaking voice.	
		30.2 Expresses through music	Makes sounds to communicate feelings.	Repeats words in familiar songs and attempts to sing.	Expresses likes and dislikes of familiar songs. Explores sounds by shaking, pounding and tapping various instruments and objects.	Expresses likes and dislikes of familiar songs. Explores sounds by shaking, pounding and tapping various instruments and objects.	
	31 Dance and Movement	31.1 Develops dance and movement techniques	Moves body in a variety of ways.	Moves body purposefully. Sways or bounces to music.	Follows the movements of others. Explores personal space and direction.	Follows the movements of others. Explores personal space and direction.	
		31.2 Expresses through dance and movement	Uses body language to express feelings.	Uses purposeful gestures and body language to communicate.	Moves in own way to music and rhythm.	Moves in own way to music and rhythm.	
	32 Visual Arts	32.1 Develops artistic techniques	Explores materials using gross motor movements and senses.	Uses hands and feet to explore a variety of media.	Explores a variety of artistic tools and media.	Explores a variety of artistic tools and media.	
		32.2 Expresses through visual arts	Expresses emotions while exploring materials.	Scribbles, colors or paints intentionally on paper.	Uses materials to create shapes and symbols.	Uses materials to create shapes and symbols.	
33 Drama	33.1 Participates in dramatic play	Imitates simple movements and facial expressions.	Mimics observed behaviors and words.	Uses words, actions and props to pretend.	Uses words, actions and props to pretend.		
33.2 Uses and creates props	Responds to props or puppets.	Mimics the use of familiar objects.	Uses realistic toys as replacements for real objects. Distinguishes between real and pretend.	Uses realistic toys as replacements for real objects. Distinguishes between real and pretend.			