### Age Expectation Developmental Guidelines

#### Quick Reference

<table>
<thead>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Children demonstrate age appropriate functioning by…..</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Birth - 6 Months</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>• Fixating on the human face and tracking or following movements</td>
<td>• Trying to cause things to happen such as kicking a mobile and smiling.</td>
<td>• Beginning to reach for objects.</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Being comforted and appearing to enjoy touch and being held by a familiar adult.</td>
<td>• Developing more precise imitation skills of facial movements and speech sounds.</td>
<td>• Bringing hands together at midline.</td>
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<td>• Smiling spontaneously to human contact, smiling in play, and smiling at self in mirror.</td>
<td>• Securing an object that is partially hidden with a cloth.</td>
<td>• Walking reflex; when held upright with feet resting on flat surface, lifts feet alternately in walking-like motion</td>
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<td>• Vocalizing in response to vocalizations and speech produced by an adult</td>
<td>• Demonstrating exploratory behaviors with objects</td>
<td>• Holding small objects or toys</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>7 - 12 Months</strong></td>
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<td>• Imitating familiar words in turn-taking</td>
<td>• Transferring objects from one hand to another</td>
<td>• Pulling self up to standing posture next to furniture</td>
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<td>• Exhibiting anxious behavior around unfamiliar adults</td>
<td>• Demonstrating a refined neat-pincer grasp with thumb opposition</td>
<td>• Drinking from a cup.</td>
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<td>• Repeating a behavior (shows off) to maintain adult attention</td>
<td>• Demonstrating emerging problem solving skills</td>
<td>• Beginning to feed self finger food</td>
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<td>• Briefly stopping behavior when told “no”</td>
<td>• Maintaining attention to speaker</td>
<td>• Beginning to grab for spoon when being fed.</td>
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<td><strong>13 - 24 Months</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>• Demonstrating more complex exploration and play skills with toys and objects</td>
<td>• Looking at, pointing and naming pictures in book</td>
<td>• Pointing with index finger</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Initiating familiar turn-taking routines</td>
<td>• Using 2-3 word phrases</td>
<td>• Pulling off own socks</td>
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<td>• Discriminating between familiar and unfamiliar people</td>
<td>• Following a 2 or 3 step direction</td>
<td>• Beginning to cooperate when being dressed</td>
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<td>• “Checking in” with familiar adults while playing</td>
<td>• Referring to self by name</td>
<td><strong>13 - 24 Months</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>• Gaining enjoyment from peer play and joint exploration</td>
<td>• Using sentence-like intonations</td>
<td><strong>13 - 24 Months</strong></td>
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<td>• Stacking 5 or 6 blocks</td>
<td>• Beginning to explore the environment independently</td>
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<td>• Demonstrating more advanced movement and motor skills such as running and climbing</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Picking up small items (food or toys) with ends of thumb and index finger (neat pincer grasp)</td>
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<td>• Trying to wash own hands and face</td>
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### 25 - 30 Months
- Having difficulty sharing with peers
- Obeying adult request approximately half of the time
- Continuing to try difficult tasks for brief periods of time
- Seeking and accepting assistance when encountering difficulty
- Wanting to do favorite activities over and over
- Separating from parent in familiar surroundings without crying

### 25 - 30 Months
- Understanding approximately 500 words and says 200 words
- Speaking in 2-3 word sentences, jargon and echolalia almost gone
- Answering and asking simple “who,” “what,” and “where,” questions
- Naming at least one color
- Matching simple shapes such as circle, square and triangle
- Understanding size differences (big, little)

### 25 - 30 Months
- Independently eating with spoon
- Taking off own shoes, socks, and some pants
- Imitating circular, vertical and horizontal strokes
- Walking up steps, alternating feet in adult fashion while holding rail or hand
- Snipping paper with scissors
- Catching ball (by trapping against body) when playing with adult or peer

### 31-36 Months
- Associative play predominates
- Separating easily from parent in familiar environment
- Throwing tantrums when thwarted or unable to express urgent needs
- Following simple rules
- Taking turns in games
- Listening and participating in group activities with adult supervision
- Pretending and using imagination during play

### 31-36 Months
- Giving first and last name when asked
- Using 4-6 word phrases or sentences
- Beginning to use contractions
- Using past tense
- Drawing a face from a model
- Matching three colors
- Matching objects by color, shape and size
- Stating whether they are a boy or girl

### 31 - 36 Months
- Using a fork to spear bite size chunks of food
- Hopping in one place on one foot 3 times
- Verbalizing toileting needs fairly consistently
- Washing and drying hands, brushing teeth
- Copying a circle
- Unbuttoning buttons

### 37 - 48 Months
- Responding to and making a verbal greeting
- Beginning to show cooperative play without adult supervision
- Demonstrating fears (mechanical toys, vacuum cleaner, thunder, dark)
- Wanting to be “big girl,” “big boy,” and acquire new skills
- Accepting suggestions and follows simple directions
- Accepting the consequences of one’s own actions
- Following routines independently and completes familiar routines
- Showing persistence when completing difficult tasks

### 37 - 48 Months
- Drawing a person with head and 1-3 additional features
- Following 3 step commands in a complex sentence
- Listening attentively to short stories; enjoying familiar stories told without any changes in words
- Responding to questions with appropriate answers
- Speaking clearly enough so that 75-80 percent of speech is understandable to an unfamiliar listener
- Names four colors
- Telling own age and gender
- Matching objects that have the same function
- Understanding the concept of the number 3

### 37 - 48 Months
- Using the toilet with some help
- Performing more refined tasks (buttoning, zipping, attempts at tying shoes)
- Walking upstairs and downstairs alternating feet without holding on to rail or hand
- Feeding self with fork, spoon and buttering bread with knife
- Putting on boots and mittens
- Wiping nose, unassisted
- Brushing teeth independently
- Using vertical, horizontal, and circular motions when drawing
- Copying drawing a cross
### 49 - 60 Months
- Recognizing other’s needs and giving assistance
- Preferring to play with other children to playing alone, except when involved in a project
- Engaging in cooperative play
- Attending during large group for 10 minutes
- Waiting in turn for adult attention
- Having a best friend of the same gender

### 49 - 60 Months
- Drawing a person with at least five parts
- Matching sounds in familiar songs
- Clapping syllables in name
- Articulating the difference between beginning and ending sounds
- Substituting sounds in words
- Identifying letters in first and last name
- Using print in imaginary play
- Copying symbols and letters of first name
- Giving 3, 5, 7 objects upon request
- Rote counting to 10
- Recognizing symbols 1-10
- Counting objects to five
- Telling age, middle name, last name, parent’s name, address/town, telephone number, birthday, days of week
- Naming 6-8 colors

### 49 - 60 Months
- Wiping nose independently
- Demonstrating hand dominance
- Holding a pencil with 3 finger grasp
- Zipping zippers
- Lacing shoes
- Dressing and undressing independently, including front fasteners, requiring assistance with ties and back fasteners
- Cutting a circle with scissors

### 61-72 Months
- Recognizing that there are “good” and “bad” touches
- Responding verbally and positively to good fortunes of others
- Demonstrating tenderness and protectiveness toward younger children and pets
- Working alone at chore for 20 to 30 minutes
- Predicting classroom routines and guiding other children in routines
- Expressing anger with non-aggressive words rather than with physical actions
- Comforting friends in distress

### 61-72 Months
- Telling similarities and differences
- Predicting what will happen next
- Pointing out common words in stories
- Discriminating and articulating middle sounds in words
- Identifying beginning sound of name and finding another word with same sound
- Identifying most letter sounds
- Recognizing and naming most letters
- Printing name independently
- Matching numbers with objects
- Pointing to and naming hip, waist, toenails, chest, eyebrows, jaw, stomach, fingernails, back, wrist, cheek
- Telling own city, state, months of year, current year
- Drawing a person with 6 parts

### 61-72 Months
- Obeying traffic lights and signs
- Covering mouth and nose when coughing and sneezing
- Understanding that it is unsafe to accept rides, food, or money from strangers
- Cutting soft food with knife
- Making simple breakfast and lunch
- Bathing without assistance
- Selects clothing appropriate for temperature and occasion
- Making own bed when asked
- Being responsible for one household chore
- Skipping on alternating feet, maintaining balance
- Running smoothly with changes in speed
Decision Tree for Summary Rating Discussions

Does the child ever function in ways that would be considered age-appropriate with regard to this outcome?

No (consider rating 1-3)

Does the child use any immediate foundational skills related to this outcome upon which to build age-appropriate functioning across settings and situations?

No

To what extent is the child using immediate foundational skills across settings and situations?

Uses skills that are not yet immediate foundational

Rating = 1

Occasional use of immediate foundational skills

Rating = 2

Uses immediate foundational skills most or all of the time across settings and situations

Rating = 3

Yes

Is the child’s functioning age-appropriate across all or almost all settings and situations?

No

To what extent is the child’s functioning age-appropriate across settings and situations?

Occasional use of age-appropriate skills; more behavior that is not age-appropriate

Rating = 4

Uses a mix of age-appropriate and not age-appropriate behaviors and skills across settings and situations

Rating = 5

Yes

Does anyone have concerns about the child’s functioning with regard to the outcome area?

Yes

Rating = 6

No

Rating = 7