

Signs to Look for in Child Development

Signs to Look for: Vision Development

3 months

- Eyes are still wandering randomly and crossing often
- Doesn't watch faces intently
- Doesn't follow moving objects
- Doesn't recognize familiar objects or faces
- Doesn't use hands and eyes in coordination to get things
- Doesn't blink defensively

5 months

- Doesn't seem to distinguish color, still prefers high contrast of black and white
- Doesn't reach for objects

7 months

- Doesn't seem to see things at a distance
- Doesn't track moving objects
- Doesn't notice when object rolls out of sight
- Doesn't notice tiny objects when close to them
- Doesn't recognize parts of objects (nipple of bottle)

8 months

- Doesn't recognize objects and people at a distance

Appearance of Eyes

- Eyes crossed - turning in or out at any time
- Lids red, crusted or swollen
- Frequent styes
- Watering eyes, especially when child uses them excessively
- One pupil larger than the other

Complaints

- Headaches, nausea, dizziness
- Pain in or around eyes
- Complaints of double or blurry vision
- Burning or itching of eyes
- Undue sensitivity to light

Behavior Indications

- Rubs eyes frequently
- Excessive blinking
- Squinting
- Unable to see what is on the pages of book in group time or what is written on the board
- Tilts head or appears to strain forward while looking at objects
- Compresses lids (frowns, wrinkles face, thrusts head forward, etc) while doing close or distant focusing
- Holds books or materials very close to eyes while looking at them
- Holds head very close to table or materials while looking at them
- Sits close to visual source
- Shuts or covers one eye for close or distance focusing
- Unable to concentrate on reading or working with materials (inattention)
- Stops playing with items that use visual concentration after brief periods
- Frequent stumbling, running into objects, or general clumsiness
- Has difficulty playing games involving moving objects (ball)
- Child is accident prone

Signs to Look For: Hearing Development

Complaints

- Ringing in the ears
- Muffled sound
- Dizziness
- Frequent earaches, colds, upper respiratory infections, etc.

Behavioral Indicators

- Asks "what" or repetition of words/sentences
- Sits close to sound source
- Fails to react to loud noises
- Does not recognize and/or respond appropriately to common environmental noises (phone, TV, door bell, etc)
- Rubs or pulls at ears
- Doesn't respond when spoken to from behind
- Strains to watch a speaker's face
- Has difficulty localizing direction of sound
- Gives incorrect answer to simple questions
- Is withdrawn or moody
- Functioning below potential in school
- Substitutes or mispronounces speech sounds or unclear speech
- Difficulty keeping balance, running, jumping
- Uses gestures rather than words
- Delayed speech and language development

Signs to Look For: Communication Development

3 months

- Doesn't smile at the sound of your voice
- Doesn't begin to babble
- Doesn't begin to imitate some sounds

7 months

- Doesn't respond to own name
- Doesn't respond to sound by making sounds of babble chains of sounds
- Doesn't use voice to express joy or displeasure

1 Year

- Doesn't pay attention to speech or respond to simple verbal requests
- Doesn't respond to "no"
- Doesn't use simple gestures (shaking head for "no")
- Doesn't babble with inflection
- Doesn't say "mama" and "dada"
- Doesn't try to imitate words

2 years

- Doesn't point to object, person, body part or picture when it is named
- Doesn't use several single words (by 15-18 months)
- Doesn't use simple phrases (by 18-24 months)
- Doesn't use 2-4 word sentences
- Doesn't repeat words overheard in conversations

3 years

- Doesn't follow 2-3 part commands
- Doesn't recognize or identify most common objects and pictures
- Doesn't understand most sentences
- Doesn't understand placement in space (on, in, under, etc)
- Can't say name, age, and sex
- Doesn't use pronouns (I, me, you, we, they) and some plurals (cars, dogs, cats)

4 Years

- Hasn't mastered some basic rules of grammar
- Doesn't speak in sentences of 5 or 6 words
- Doesn't speak clearly enough for stranger to understand

Signs to Look For: Motor Development

3 months

- Doesn't push down on legs when feet are placed on a firm surface
- Doesn't open and shut hands or bring hands to mouth
- Doesn't take swipes at dangling objects with hands
- Doesn't grasp or shake small toys (rattles)

7 months

- Doesn't roll both ways (front to back, back to front)
- Doesn't sit first with then without support on hands
- Doesn't support whole weight on legs
- Doesn't transfer objects from hand to hand or use hand to rake objects

1 year

- Doesn't reach sitting position without assistance
- Doesn't assume hands and knees position or creep on hands and knees
- Doesn't get from sitting to crawling or prone (lying on stomach) position
- Doesn't pull self up to stand
- Doesn't walk holding on to furniture
- Doesn't stand momentarily without support
- Doesn't walk 2 or 3 steps without support

2 years

- Doesn't walk alone
- Doesn't carry large toy or several small toys while walking
- Doesn't run or kick a ball
- Doesn't climb onto or down from furniture unassisted
- Doesn't walk up or down stairs holding on to rail for support

3 years

- Doesn't climb well
- Doesn't walk up and down stairs alternating feet (one foot per step at a time)
- Doesn't run easily
- Doesn't pedal trike
- Doesn't bend over easily without falling

4 years

- Doesn't hop or stand on one foot up to 5 seconds
- Doesn't throw ball overhand
- Doesn't catch bounced ball
- Doesn't move forward or backward with agility

Signs to Look For: Social/Emotional Development

3 months

- Doesn't exhibit a social smile
- Doesn't enjoy playing with other people
- Doesn't mind when playing stops (doesn't cry for more)
- Isn't expressive and doesn't communicate with face or body
- Doesn't imitate movements or facial expressions

7 months

- Doesn't enjoy social play
- Isn't interested in mirror image
- Doesn't respond to other people's expressions

1 year

- Doesn't cry when mother/father leave OR is inconsolable when they leave
- Doesn't imitate people in play
- Doesn't show any preferences for people or toys
- Doesn't repeat sounds or gestures for attention
- Doesn't finger feed self
- Doesn't extend arms or legs when being dressed

2 years

- Doesn't imitate behavior of others
- Doesn't demonstrate independence

3 years

- Doesn't spontaneously show affection for familiar playmates
- Doesn't take turns in games
- Doesn't understand concept of "my" or "mine"

4 years

- Isn't interested in new experiences
- Doesn't cooperate with other children
- Doesn't play "mom" or "dad"
- Doesn't dress or undress
- Doesn't begin to find solutions to conflicts
- Isn't becoming more independent

Signs to Look For: Cognitive Development

7 months

- **Doesn't explore with hands and mouth**
- **Doesn't attempt to get objects that are out of reach**

1 year

- **Doesn't explore objects in different ways (shaking, banging, throwing, dropping)**
- **Doesn't find hidden object**
- **Doesn't point to or verbally label pictures of familiar objects or people**
- **Doesn't respond to simple instructions**

3 years

- **Doesn't try to make mechanical toys work**
- **Doesn't match object to picture in room or book**
- **Doesn't play make believe with dolls, animals or people**
- **Doesn't complete 3-4 piece puzzles**

4 years

- **Doesn't identify colors by name**
- **Doesn't understand concept of counting or know a few numbers**
- **Doesn't have a sense of time**
- **Doesn't follow 3 part commands**
- **Doesn't understand concepts of "same" or "different"**