

## **Developmental Red Flags** **Birth – 12 months**

### Motor Concerns

- Child's muscles are very tight, stiff feeling
- Child's muscles are very floppy as if the child is a rag doll
- Child arches backwards when being held upright or when trying to roll on the floor.
- Child keeps hands fisted, even when sleeping. Hands should be open by 3 months old.
- Child does not use both hands in play equally.
- Child is unable to hold bottle by 6 months old.
- Child is unable to take baby food from a spoon without choking/gagging by 6 months old.

### Social/Emotional Concerns

- Child doesn't smile in response to a social interaction by 2 months
- Child has difficulty with bonding to a safe adult
- Child doesn't like to be touched or held
- Child doesn't respond to name being called with a head turn and smile by 8 months of age

### Speech and Language Concerns

- Child doesn't coo by 3 months
- Child doesn't have a variety of babbling sounds by 6 months old
- Child is unable to say mama and dada with meaning by their 1<sup>st</sup> birthday

### Vision Concerns

- The child turns or tilts head in unusual positions when looking at an object
- The child may over-reach or under-reach for objects (accurate reaching usually occurs around 6 months).
- Eyes jiggle and can't hold still, difficulty moving either or both eyes in all directions or a pupil that appears white.

## **Developmental Red Flags 12-24 months**

### Motor Concerns

- W-Sits
- Toe walking
- Clumsy & uncoordinated at 18 months
- Is unable to take off most of his clothes by 24 months

### Social/Emotional Concerns

- Separation anxiety, clingy to one person to the point that the child is unable to play and learn.
- Inappropriate affect
- Anxious or impulsive
- Difficulty with transitions
- Angry, aggressive, hits, or bites more than is typical for this age
- Difficult to console
- Doesn't like crowds – separates away from the other children
- Lack of or fleeting eye contact
- Excessively quiet (passive)

### Speech and Language Concerns

- Doesn't have 20 words by 18 months; 50+ words by 24 months
- Excessive drooling
- Slowed or stagnant speech development
- Child's speech is understandable less than 50% of the time at 24 months
- Child doesn't show an interest in communicating
- Sudden loss of speech and language skills
- Feeding difficulties – hoards food, overly picky, stuffs food in her mouth, avoids certain textures

### Cognitive/Problem-Solving Concerns

- Unable to play with one toy for 2 consecutive minutes
- Child's play with toys is repetitive, rather than functional
- Child does not engage in pretend play activities

## **Developmental Red Flags 24-36 months**

### Social/Emotional Concerns

- Lack of or over involvement in activities
- Inappropriate affect
- Anxious or impulsive
- Difficulty with transitions
- Difficult to console
- Doesn't like crowds
- Doesn't like to socialize with other children
- Lack of or fleeting or peripheral eye contact
- Excessively quiet (passive)

### Motor Concerns

- Twirling
- Toe Walking
- W sitting

### Speech and Language Concerns

- Can't name at least 3 body parts
- Doesn't ask questions
- Slowed or stagnant speech development
- Sudden loss of speech and language skills
- Child's speech is understandable less than 75% of the time @ 36 months
- Child does not speak in 2-3 word sentences consistently
- Stuttering

### Cognitive/Problem-Solving Concerns

- Unable to play with one toy for 3-5 consecutive minutes
- Child's play with toys is repetitive, rather than functional
- Child does not enjoy positive praise for accomplished tasks –does not seek teacher approval for accomplishments

## Daily Activities that Promote Positive Growth & Development Birth – 12 Months

- ❖ **Tummy Time is important.** With the Back to Sleep Campaign, swings, car seats, and bouncy seats, infants today spend the vast majority of their time lying on their backs. In fact, most infants will fuss a bit when placed on their tummy, however, tummy time is critical to the development of neck, arm, shoulder and trunk strength. Children who don't get experience playing on their tummies are at high risk for developing plagiocephaly (flattening of the head) or torticollis (a muscular condition that keeps the child's head turned predominately to one side). Both of these conditions can have serious impacts on the child's ability to develop more advanced motor skills such as walking.
- ❖ **Talk, Talk & Talk Some More** Babies are learning about the wonderful world of language from the moment they are conceived. Talking to the infants all day long will help them to develop an understanding of language. During feeding time or diaper changing sessions, using the same repetitive phrases can teach the meaning of words such as bottle, eat, up, and all done.
- ❖ **Monkey See, Monkey Do** Babies as young as 2 months old are learning to imitate the adults in their life. The first imitation is smiling, followed by laughing. We can teach children to imitate facial expressions, sounds, actions with toys (banging the rattle) and then, our ultimate goal, teaching the child to imitate words. All of this imitation sets the child on the correct path for gaining new skills.

**Daily Activities that Promote  
Positive Growth & Development  
12-24 Months**

- ❖ **Talk, Talk & Talk Some More** Between 12 and 24 months, children go from approximately 2 words to 100 words and speaking in 2 word sentences. Classrooms should be language rich. Daily routines of snacks/meals, diapering, circle time and outside time should be paired with a language routine as well. This language routine could be a song, finger play or a predictable sentence that the children fill in the last word or two.
  
- ❖ **Challenging their Minds** Toddlers are very inquisitive. Once they have learned to walk pretty steadily, they will be ready to master skills with their smaller muscles. Coloring, puzzles, blocks, and busy boxes all present challenges for children to work towards mastering.
  
- ❖ **Let's Pretend** Toddlers need time to figure out their worlds. Housekeeping centers in the classroom allow children time to explore the roles that they see their parents doing everyday. Children will learn how to communicate with one another and negotiate early sharing as well.

**Daily Activities that Promote  
Positive Growth & Development  
24-36 Months**

- ❖ **Preschool Learning Begins Now.** 2 year olds are little sponges ready to learn. Matching games, finger plays that incorporate counting, songs that incorporate movement and direction following (i.e. Head & Shoulders) are great activities for children. Children at this age will begin coloring with more purpose and can imitate drawing lines and circles. Early representative drawings may also emerge.
  
- ❖ **Let's Play Together** Children who have the benefit of attending childcare programs tend to engage in associative play at an earlier age than children who do not have this benefit. Housekeeping centers are often a favorite spot for 2 year olds who are learning to engage in game like play where everyone has a role. Although there are more disagreements in this center, it is critical for them to learn (with adult help) how to achieve compromise and learn to share so that they can have fun together.
  
- ❖ **Tell me more...** Two year olds should have an extensive vocabulary (100+ words, primarily using 2-3 word sentences) to be able to tell you what they want. By the time they are 3, they should be able to recall an event and tell you about it. Using pictures from books or magazines and asking the children to tell you about the picture helps them to gain pre-reading skills while enhancing their vocabulary. Pictures showing a variety of emotions can help children develop a feelings vocabulary.