



Early Foundations® Infants—Educational Standards

The behaviors and skills described below are those considered to be typical and developmentally appropriate for children ages zero to 12 months old. It is not expected that all children will master every skill; some may not be mastered until elementary school. Children should show growth over time in most areas.

Physical Development and Wellness (0–12 Months)

- Begins to coordinate body movements to perform actions on objects
- Demonstrates strength and stamina appropriate to age.
- Shows energy and physical-activity level appropriate to age.

Physical Development and Wellness (0–6 Months)

- Begins to crawl or scoot
- Holds head upright
- Lifts and turns head
- Raised head, chest, and shoulders when lying on stomach
- Begins to get up on hands and knees
- Rolls
- Sits with support
- Stands with adult support
- Uses ulnar grasp (closes fingers of hand against palm)
- Uses hands to explore objects
- Begins to display coordinated hand movements
- Displays beginning eye-hand coordination
- Shows interest in food and being fed

Physical Development and Wellness (6–12 Months)

- Crawls or scoots
- Cruises along furniture
- Walks with support
- Gets up on hands and knees
- Rolls over and over

- Sits independently
- Pulls up to standing position
- Begins to develop awareness of own body and how the body moves in space
- Begins to develop awareness of how body parts relate to one another
- Uses pincer grasp (brings thumb and index finger together)
- Controls movements to purposefully handle objects
- Displays coordinate hand movements
- Displays developing eye-hand coordination
- Demonstrates beginning participation in care routines
- Shows interest in food and a desire to try different foods

Language and Literacy Development (0–12 Months)

- Expresses self through vocalizations such as babbling or producing first word
- Communicates needs, wants, or interests using sounds and gestures
- Shows interest in back-and-forth communication
- Begins to build a receptive vocabulary by listening, observing, and engaging
- Responds to sounds and the rhythm of language when spoken, sung, or read to
- Responds to books read aloud
- Listens with interest to simple books or rhymes read aloud and may try to participate in the experience

Executive Function (0–12 Months)

- Attends to people and objects for brief periods of time, but is easily distracted
- Tries a variety of approaches to meet needs

Executive Function (0–6 Months)

- Demonstrates awareness of objects in the environment

Executive Function (6–12 Months)

- Demonstrates ability to find objects in familiar locations
- Initiates and completes simple means-to-end tasks with a goal in mind
- Begins observe and use approaches of others to complete tasks or solve problems
- Demonstrates ability to control impulses some of the time

Social and Emotional Development (0–12 Months)

- Begins to respond to signs of distress in others

Social and Emotional Development (0–6 Months)

- Recognizes that familiar adults will meet basic needs
- Begins to form attachments to and show affection toward preferred adults
- Begins to acknowledge and seek out social responses, such as by making eye contact and following others with eyes
- Begins to show awareness of and respond to other children
- Begins to show pleasure around other children
- Begins to express some emotions through sounds, facial expressions, and movements
- Begins to manage some emotions with adult support and reassurance
- Begins to become aware of self
- Begins to become aware of self as separate from others

Social and Emotional Development (6–12 Months)

- Demonstrates understanding that familiar adults will meet basic needs and provide security
- Forms attachments to familiar adults
- Begins to show pleasure when interacting with familiar adults
- Begins to show preference for familiar children
- Begins to show pleasure around and interact with other children
- Begins to participate in individualized care and classroom routines, with guidance
- Begins to engage in solitary play

- Begins to develop early conflict-resolution skills, with adult guidance
- Expresses some emotions through sounds, facial expressions, and movements
- Begins to manage emotions with adult support and reassurance (may require support from *familiar* adult only)
- Shows awareness of self
- Shows awareness of self as separate from others
- May begin to show awareness of and confidence in growing abilities

Cognitive Development (0–12 Months)

- Begins to imitate simple actions of others
- Begins to distinguish among familiar and unfamiliar people, objects, and places
- Uses senses to explore and manipulate objects and observe events in the environment

Creative Expression (0–12 Months)

- Begins to attend to bright or contrasting colors (primary colors, black and white)
- Begins to attend to music and may be calmed by it

Creative Expression (0–6 Months)

- Begins to hold, touch, and explore different textures
- Begins to express self, such as needs, through movement

Creative Expression (6–12 Months)

- Holds, touches, and explores different textures
- Begins to express self, such as needs and desires, through movement
- Begins to explore making noises with toy instruments