

Concerned About Your Child's Development?

Take note of your child's development by observing how he/she plays, speaks, learns and interacts with others. If you notice any of these red flags, or have any concerns about your child's development, speak with his/her doctor immediately.

| Age Red Flags | 6 Months | 9 Months | 1 Year | 1.5 Years | 2 Years | 2.5 Years | 3 Years | 4 Years |
|---------------------------|--|--|---|--|--|---|---|---|
| Gross Motor | Does not roll in either direction Unable to lift up head and chest when lying face down on a surface. Unable to hold head upright when sitting | Unable to sit without support Unable to bear weight on legs with support | Unable to stand with support Unable to crawl, bear walk and/or shuffle on bottom to move | Unable to walk independently Unable to climb up stairs with support | • Unable to run | Unable to throw or kick a ball Unable to climb up stairs with both feet on each step while holding a railing Unable to jump off a low step | Falls down a lot Unable to climb stairs with alternating feet | Unable to pedal a tricycle Unable to stand on 1 foot for 5 seconds |
| | Use of one arm/leg more than the other at any age | | | | | | | |
| Fine Motor | Does not reach for and hold on to objects Has difficulty getting objects to mouth | Unable to transfer objects between hands | Unable to pick up small objects with thumb and index finger Does not look for an object that has fallen out of sight | Unable to build a tower of 2 blocks | Unable to build a tower of 4 blocks Unable to scribble | Unable to build a tower of 6 blocks Unable to draw a vertical line Unable to complete simple shape puzzles (e.g. square, circle puzzles) | Unable to draw a horizontal line Unable to turn pages of a board book 1 page at a time | Unable to draw a circle Unable to use scissors |
| Speech and Language | Does not make vowel sounds ("ah", "eh", "oh") Does not startle to sudden sounds | Does not turn towards sound at ear level Does not babble ("mama", "dada", "baba") | Does not point to indicate needs Hello! 9 | Does not use 'mama' 'papa' meaningfully Unable to speak any single words Unable to understand simple instructions with gestures ("give", "come") | Unable to speak in 2-word phrases ("drink milk") Unable to follow simple instructions without gestures ("give me the ball") | Not intelligible to familiar carers Does not use pronouns correctly Does not make frequent comments on objects and events of interest | Unable to speak in 3-word sentences Unclear speech Unable to follow 2 part instructions ("Take the toy and give it to me") | Unable to speak in 4-5 word sentences Unable to retell a favourite story Unable to follow 3 part instructions |
| | Limited, inconsistent or absent eye contact at any age | | | | | | | |
| Social | Does not show affection for caregivers Does not laugh or make squealing sounds | Does not respond to his/her name when called Does not recognise familiar people | Does not use gestures (e.g. waving bye-bye) Plays with parts of toy instead of whole toy (e.g. wheels of car only) | Does not point to show things to others Does not imitate others Does not notice or mind when caregiver leaves or returns | Does not copy actions or words Does not bring objects of personal interest to show caregiver | Has no pretend play Has poor eye contact | Does not play with other children or toys Does not know what others are feeling or thinking by looking at their facial expressions | Ignores other children or does not respond to people outside the family Not independent in toileting, eating or basic dressing |

NUH Child Development Unit is part of the Khoo Teck Puat - National University Children's Medical Institute at National University Hospital. The clinic provides multidisciplinary assessments, therapy and holistic management of children with developmental and behavioural disorders from birth to 7 years old.

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Early Intervention Matters!

Seek help early if you notice:

Any of the above delays

Any regression (i.e. loss of a previously learned skill at any age

