

# DEVELOPMENTAL MILESTONES ASSESSMENT FOR CHILDREN UNDER THE AGE OF SIX AND AT DEVELOPMENTAL RISK

## INSTRUCTIONS

"Detecting developmental delays early is challenging. Delays or deviations in development may come to the attention of professionals and parents because a child is known to have risk factors by history, has physical findings or medical conditions likely to be associated with delays, or manifests delays at the time of observations. A delay in a skill becomes evident only at the age when a specific developmental milestone is expected". (1) "Child development is a dynamic process and is often hard to measure by its very nature". (2) "A single test at one point in time only gives a snapshot of the dynamic process, making periodic screening necessary to detect emerging disabilities as a child grows". (3)

1. Select the age-appropriate assessment tool.
2. In conjunction with the caretaker (parent, guardian, etc.) and recipient (if appropriate) address each item on the assessment tool.
3. Categories preceding the "Health Watch" category are ranked from left to right as Rarely, Sometimes, Often and Regularly. This is an attempt to maintain consistency with the adult LOF assessment tool.
4. Please note that "Health Watch" ratings are ranked from left to right as Regularly, Often, Sometimes, and Rarely. This is an attempt to adhere to the American Academy of Pediatrics Medical Library documents and also to provide the evaluator with specific data that they (or the caretaker) can share with the physician if necessary.
5. It is expected that the Developmental Milestones Assessment will be conducted as a recipient-centered, culturally sensitive process. The final product should include input from the caretaker, the recipient (if appropriate), the physician and any other service provider involved with the care/welfare of the recipient. This input may include interviews, telephone calls, copies of records, etc.
6. The following definitions should be adhered to when completing the assessment:  
  
"Rarely" Behavior occurs quarterly or less  
"Sometimes" Behavior occurs one a month or less  
"Often" Behavior occurs 2-3 times per month  
"Regularly" Behavior occurs weekly or more
7. The Developmental Milestones are the typical stages of development for children. They are to be assessed to determine abilities, skills, and needs of the child and will be the basis for the development of a plan of care. A simple majority of ratings of "Sometimes" and "Rarely" within any one of the designated milestone categories places the child in the "at risk of developmental delay" population.

(1) *Committee on Children with Disabilities, American Academy of Pediatrics. Policy Statement: Developmental surveillance and Screening of Infants and Young Children (RE0062). Vol. 108, No. 1 July 2001. 192-196.*

(2) *Committee on Children with Disabilities, American Academy of Pediatrics. 192-196.*

(3) *Committee on Children with Disabilities, American Academy of Pediatrics. 192-196.*

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8. Any ranking of "Often" or "Regularly" in the Health Watch category places the child in the "at risk of development delay" population.
  9. Any child that meets the "at risk of development delay" criteria should be referred to a physician for further assessment.
  10. Re-assessments should be conducted at least at each age-specified stage of development. Additional assessments should be conducted whenever there is significant change in the child's functioning level.
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**DEVELOPMENTAL MILESTONES ASSESSMENT  
FOR CHILDREN UNDER THE AGE OF SIX AND AT DEVELOPMENTAL RISK  
(at the end of 1 month of age)**

**Recipient Birth Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Recipient Medicaid Number:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Recipient Date of Birth:** \_\_\_\_\_

Developmental Milestone	Regu- larly	Often	Some- times	Rarely
<b>MOVEMENT</b>				
Makes jerky, quivering arms thrusts				
Brings hands within range of eyes and mouth				
Moves head from side to side while lying on stomach				
Head flops backward if unsupported				
Keeps hands in tight fists				
Strong reflex movements				
<b>VISUAL</b>				
Focuses 8 to 12 inches away				
Eyes wander and occasionally cross				
Prefers black-and-white or high-contrast patterns				
Prefers the human face to all other patterns				
<b>HEARING</b>				
Hearing is fully mature				
Recognizes some sounds				
May turn toward familiar sounds and voices				
<b>SMELL &amp; TOUCH</b>				
Prefers sweet smells				
Avoids bitter or acidic smells				
Recognizes the scent of own mother's breastmilk				
Prefers soft to coarse sensations				
Dislikes rough or abrupt handling				
<b>HEALTH WATCH</b>				
	Rarely	Some- times	Often	Regu- larly
Sucks poorly and feeds slowly				
Does not blink when shown a bright light				
Does not focus and follow a nearby object moving side to side				
Rarely moves arms and legs; seems stiff				
Seems excessively loose in the limbs, or floppy				
Lower jaw trembles constantly, even when not crying or excited				
Does not respond to loud sounds				
If the child shows any of these signs of developmental delay in the second, third or fourth week of life, the caregiver should notify their physician.				

**Comments:**

**Parties involved in assessment process:**

**Parent/Guardian:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Physician:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Others:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Evaluator:** \_\_\_\_\_

**(Please print or type full name here)**

\_\_\_\_\_

**(Signature)**

\_\_\_\_\_

**(Date)**

**DEVELOPMENTAL MILESTONES ASSESSMENT**  
**FOR CHILDREN UNDER THE AGE OF SIX AND AT DEVELOPMENTAL RISK**  
**(at the end of 3 months of age)**

Recipient Birth Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Recipient Medicaid Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Recipient Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Developmental Milestone	Regu- larly	Often	Some- times	Rarely
<b>MOVEMENT</b>				
Raises head & chest when lying on stomach				
Supports upper body with arms when lying on stomach				
Stretches legs out & kicks when lying on stomach or back				
Opens and shuts hands				
Pushes down on his legs when his feet are place on a firm surface				
Takes swipes at dangling objects with hands				
Grasps and shakes hand toys				
Brings hand to mouth				
<b>VISUAL</b>				
Watches faces intently				
Follows moving objects				
Recognizes familiar objects & people at a distance				
Starts using hands and eyes in coordination				
<b>HEARING &amp; SPEECH</b>				
Smiles at the sound of caregiver's voice				
Begins to babble				
Begins to imitate sounds				
Turns head toward direction of sound				
<b>SOCIAL/EMOTIONAL</b>				
Begins to develop a social smile				
Enjoys playing with other people and may cry when playing stops				
Becomes more communicative and expressive with face and body				
Imitates some movements and facial expressions				
<b>HEALTH WATCH</b>				
Does not seem to respond to loud sounds	Rarely	Some- times	Often	Regu- larly
Does not notice hands by 2 months				
Does not smile at the sound of caregiver's voice by 2 months				
Does not follow moving objects with eyes				
Does not grasp and hold objects				
Does not smile at people				
Can not support head well				

*Developmental Milestones were adopted from the American Academy of Pediatrics Medical Library website: [www.medem.com](http://www.medem.com)*

HEALTH WATCH (cont.)	Rarely	Some-times	Often	Regu-larly
Does not reach for and grasp toys				
Does not babble				
Does not bring objects to mouth				
Begins babbling, but does not try to imitate any of caretaker's sounds				
Does not push down with legs when feet are placed on a firm surface				
Has trouble moving one or both eyes in all directions				
Crosses eyes most of the time (occasional crossing of eyes is normal in these first months)				
Does not pay attention to new faces, or seems very frightened by new faces or surroundings				
If the child shows any of these signs at this age, the caregiver should notify their physician.				

**Comments:**

**Parties involved in assessment process:**

**Parent/Guardian:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Physician:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Others:** \_\_\_\_\_

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**Evaluator:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**(Please print or type full name here)**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**(Signature)**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**(Date)**

