

Concerned About Your Child's Development?

If you have concerns about your baby or toddler's development, you may wish to discuss them with your child's doctor or you can contact the local regional center directly (see below). This brochure may assist you in talking with your child's doctor about specific concerns and how to get support for yourself and your child.

Next Steps

If you have a concern about your child's development, contact your local regional center. To locate your local regional center, visit <https://www.dds.ca.gov/rc/lookup-rs-by-county>



SCAN ME

The regional center will make arrangements for a free evaluation to determine eligibility for your child and family to receive early intervention services (known in California as Early Start services), which are confidential and may be provided at no cost to you.

You should also receive information about local Early Start Family Resource Centers, which provide parent-to-parent support, resource materials, and other information to families of children ages birth to three and beyond. To locate your local family resource center, visit <https://frcnca.org/get-connected>



SCAN ME

Ages Birth to Three Years

Information on local resources regarding children birth to three years of age may be obtained from:

California Department of Developmental Services

800-515-BABY (2229)
<https://www.dds.ca.gov/services/early-start>
Email: earlystart@dds.ca.gov



SCAN ME

Ages Birth to Five Years

Information on developmental milestones for children birth to five years of age may be obtained from:

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

<https://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/actearly>



Rev. 10/21

This brochure is available in English, Spanish, Vietnamese, Hmong, and Chinese.

Produced by the Department of Developmental Services under a contract with the California Early Intervention Technical Assistance Network at WestEd.

REASONS *for* CONCERN

THAT YOUR CHILD MAY NEED
ADDITIONAL DEVELOPMENTAL HELP

DDS in collaboration with CDE and California Family Resource Centers

REASONS *for* CONCERN

that your child may need additional developmental help



Children develop at different rates and in different ways. Differences in development may be related to personality, temperament, and/or experiences. Some children may also have health needs that affect their development.

The first years are very important in a child's life. The sooner a concern is identified, the sooner your child and family can receive specialized services to support growth and development. Use this resource to discuss any questions or concerns you have about your child's development.

Risk Factors

The following factors may place children at greater risk for health and developmental concerns:

- Prematurity or low birth weight
- Vision or hearing difficulties
- Prenatal exposure or other types of exposure to drugs, alcohol, or tobacco
- Poor nutrition or difficulties eating (lacks nutritious foods, vitamins, proteins, or iron in diet)
- Exposure to lead-based paint (licking, eating, or sucking on lead-based painted doors, floors, furniture, toys, etc.)
- Environmental factors, such as abuse or neglect

Behaviors and Relationships

Some of the following behaviors may be cause for concern in any child regardless of age:

- Avoids being held, does not like being touched
- Resists being calmed, cannot be comforted
- Avoids or rarely makes eye contact with others
- By age four months, does not coo or smile when interacting with others
- By age one, does not play games, such as peek-a-boo or pat-a-cake or wave bye-bye

- By age two, does not imitate parent or caregiver doing everyday things, such as washing dishes, cooking, or brushing teeth
- By age three, does not play with others
- Acts aggressively on a regular basis, hurts self or others

Hearing

- Has frequent earaches
- Has had many ear, nose, or throat infections
- Does not look where sounds or voices are coming from or react to loud noises
- Talks in a very loud or very low voice, or voice has an unusual sound
- Does not always respond when called from across a room even when it is for something that the child is usually interested in or likes
- Turns body so that the same ear is always turned toward a sound

Seeing

- Has reddened, watery eyes or crusty eyelids
- Rubs eyes frequently
- Closes one eye or tilts head when looking at an object
- Has difficulty following objects or looking at people when talked to
- Has difficulty focusing or making eye contact
- Usually holds books or objects very close to face or sits with face very close to television
- Has eyes or an eye that look(s) crossed or turned, or eyes do not move together

Moving

- Has stiff arms or legs
- Pushes away or arches back when held close or cuddled
- By age four months, does not hold head up
- By age six months, does not roll over
- By age nine months, does not sit up

- By age one, does not creep using hands and knees, does not pick up small objects with finger and thumb
- By age eighteen months, does not walk alone
- By age two, has difficulty holding large crayons and scribbling
- By age two and a half, has difficulty turning pages in a book
- By age three, shows poor coordination and falls or stumbles a lot when running

Communicating

- By age four months, does not coo or smile
- By age nine months, does not babble to get attention
- By age one, does not respond differently to words such as "night night" or "ball"
- By age fifteen months, does not say words to name people or objects, such as "mama" or "bottle," or shake head "no"
- By age eighteen months, does not follow one-step directions
- By age two, does not point to or name objects or people to express wants or needs
- By age two, does not use two-word phrases, such as "want juice" or "mama go"
- By age three, does not try to say familiar rhymes or songs

Thinking

- By age one, has difficulty finding an object after seeing it hidden
- By age two, does not point to body parts when asked such questions as "Where's your nose?"
- By age two and a half, does not play make-believe games or follow two-step instructions
- By age three, does not understand ideas, such as "more" or "one"