

Toddler Developmental Continuum of Skills

Individual children develop at a unique pace.

Younger Toddler



Older Preschool

Skill / Skill Code


Skill Definition

Benchmark 2


Benchmark 3





Skill / Skill Code	Skill Definition	Benchmark 2	Benchmark 3	
SED 1 Self-Awareness 	SED 1a Knows self and increases confidence SED 1b Expresses curiosity, preference and initiative	Recognizes self in photos or in a mirror.	Expresses ideas about self in relation to others. Expresses interests in trying tasks with help.	
	SED 2 Self-Regulation 	SED 2a Identifies emotions SED 2b Manages feelings and behavior	Seeks out or responds to favorite or preferred toys, objects or people	Expresses likes and dislikes.
		SED 2c Follows routines and transitions SED 3a Attends and engages SED 3b Shows flexibility and inventiveness	Shows a range of emotions with facial expressions and gestures. Soothes self by seeking a familiar adult or thing. Cooperates during familiar routines and familiar activities. Attends to what others are looking at or pointing to. Repeats actions to gain a result.	Experiments and role-plays with a range of emotions. Mimics breathing and calming strategies. Practices waiting for a turn.
	SED 4a Develops relationships with adults and peers SED 4b Participates cooperatively in groups SED 4c Identifies and respects differences in others	Greets and stays near familiar people. Mimics actions of others. Explores people and their features side by side in a book or a mirror.	Identifies and plays side by side with a new or familiar person. Helps or participates in an activity when asked. Identifies emotions of others. Demonstrates concern for others.	

Physical Development

	PD 1 Gross Motor PD 2 Fine Motor PD 3 Safety PD 4 Personal Care PD 5 Nutrition	Walks and climbs. Carries, drags, kicks and tosses objects. Purposely grasps objects with finger and thumb. Uses hands to accomplish tasks such as feeding self. Responds to possible dangers in environment and avoids them when prompted. Recognizes the difference between dirty and clean. Begins to participate in self-care activities. Points to body parts when prompted. Communicates the need to eat, rest and drink. Feeds self some finger foods.	Runs and balances on a wide beam. Throws objects in an intended direction. Catches objects against body. Opens, closes, twists and pulls objects with one or both hands. Follows simple safety rules and avoids danger. With help, participates in healthcare routines. Identifies body parts. Describes basic personal needs. Anticipates the need to eat, rest and drink. Feeds self with spoon or other utensil.
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Language & Literacy Development

	LLD 1 Listening LLD 2 Communication LLD 3 Phonological Awareness LLD 4 Alphabetic Knowledge LLD 5 Concepts of Print LLD 6 Reading Comprehension LLD 7 Writing	Shows understanding of a variety of single familiar words. Points at named objects or body parts. With prompts and gestures, follows a one-step direction. Uses a few words, signs or word-like sounds to communicate. Says one- to two-word sentences. Repeats words heard frequently in environment. Imitates sounds and tones. Repeats the last word in familiar rhymes when prompted. Identifies a familiar object or person when shown a drawing or photo. Points at words printed on a page and pretends to read aloud. Recognizes if pictures are right-side up. Turns pages from front to back of book. Points to pictures and repeats words from familiar stories. Answers "where" questions by pointing. Makes random marks with writing tools. Make handprints or fingerprints.	Shows understanding of a wide variety of phrases and sentences. Responds to simple statements and questions. Follows related two-step directions given verbally. Communicates needs, desires and ideas. Asks and responds to questions. Says two- to four-word sentences and repeats short phrases by using either signs, braille or verbalized words. Identifies familiar people, places and objects. Asks what a specific person or object is called. Shows awareness of separate words in spoken language. Suggests a missing rhyming word within a poem or song. Recognizes the difference between pictures, letters and numbers in print. Recognizes the sound of the first letter in his/her name. Identifies the front/back and top/bottom of a book. Indicates where to start reading on each page. Talks about pictures and ideas in familiar stories. Answers "what" questions about stories and books. Recalls the name of the main character. Writes letter-like forms and creates his/her own symbols. Scribbles or draws marks as a representation of an object or person.
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 Mathematics & Reasoning	MR 1 Number Sense MR 2 Spatial Awareness MR 3 Shapes MR 4 Measurement MR 5 Patterns MR 6 Classification MR 7 Logic & Reasoning	MR 1a Identifies numerals	Recognizes the numeral one and sees other numerals around the room.	Recognizes numerals to three.
		MR 1b Determines quantity	Repeats number words when heard.	Points to one object at a time while counting (not always in correct order).
		MR 1c Understands operations	Demonstrates an understanding of one, two and more.	Creates groups of objects. Adds to and removes from group as prompted.
		MR 2a Understands how objects move in space	Purposely turns or spins objects. Fills container then dumps out the contents.	Recognizes objects that are upside-down and turns them right-side up. Puts together three pieces to create a whole object.
		MR 2b Determines object location	Follows simple positional directions such as on/off, over/under and up/down.	Finds or places objects next to, between, in front of or behind self.
		MR 3 Identifies shapes and their characteristics	Matches two identical shapes.	Identifies a few basic shapes.
		MR 4a Estimates and measures	Explores size and weight of objects in relation to self.	Determines which object is bigger (heavier, longer) when given two objects.
MR 4b Compares and serializes	Places objects in a line. Demonstrates an understanding of more, none and one.	Compares and orders two to three objects according to size, length, hue or weight.		
MR 5 Identifies, reproduces and creates patterns	Attempts to mimic vocal and physical patterns.	Copies patterns with two steps, such as red-blue, red-blue.		
MR 6 Matches and sorts	When shown one object, finds the match.	Sorts objects by one feature, such as size or color. Groups objects by common characteristics.		
MR 7 Recalls info, builds memory, reasoning and problem-solving	Experiments with cause and effect.	Experiments with cause and effect.	Asks why. Begins to understand how things are connected. Recognizes a problem and asks for help.	
 Science	SCI 1 Investigation & Inquiry	SCI 1 Observes, inquires and investigates	Demonstrates curiosity about objects by touching and manipulating them. Asks one- to two-word questions.	Identifies personal interests and seeks more information. Investigates an object or group of objects in multiple ways. Shares discoveries with others.
	SCI 2 Natural & Earth Science	SCI 2a Understands living and nonliving things SCI 2b Demonstrates knowledge of Earth's environment	Plays with rocks, sand, dirt or water. Reacts to animals or insects in immediate environment. Understands hot and cold. Points at clouds and explores the feel of rain and wind.	Identifies familiar animals, plants or rocks in immediate environment. Groups living things by common characteristics. Notices changes in temperature or weather.
	SCI 3 Physical Science	SCI 3 Explores forces, motion and physical properties of materials	Reads to changes in texture, smell, sound or sight. Uses body to push or pull toys.	Explores motion by moving, rolling, blowing on or dropping a toy. Begins to name colors.
	SCI 4 Technology	SCI 4 Uses tools and technology to performs tasks	Begins to use simple tools purposefully, such as using a spoon to feed self.	Explores movable parts on toys and tools. Uses on and off switches.
 Social Studies	SS 1 Culture & Community	SS 1a Identifies community and family roles SS 1b Explores cultures and traditions SS 1c Respects diversity	Recognizes the difference between a familiar and unfamiliar person. With help, participates in family traditions and customs. Explores people and their features side by side in a book or a mirror.	Identifies familiar people and pets. Recognizes familiar symbols or artifacts of family traditions or customs. Identifies physical similarities and differences between self and others.
	SS 2 Civics & Economics	SS 2a Follows rules, limits and expectations SS 2b Understands concepts of money and economics SS 3 Identifies types of places and interacts with maps	Participates in communal activities. Expresses a desire for an object or action. Says me, mine. Recognizes familiar places. Finds ways to move around obstacles in a familiar environment.	Recognizes and attends to authority figures. Expresses choice or want and realizes s/he has interests and desires different from others. Recognizes ownership of familiar objects. Explores the concept of trade.
	SS 3 Geography	SS 3 Identifies types of places and interacts with maps	Observes events and begins to participate.	Identifies a variety of familiar places such as home, church, stores. Follows a path.
	SS 4 History & Time	SS 4 Develops sense of time	Observes events and begins to participate.	Describes events as they happen. Uses words such as first, then.
 Creative Arts	CA 1 Music	CA 1a Expresses through music CA 1b Develops rhythm and tone	Repeats words in familiar songs and attempts to sing. Responds to changes in sound, rhythm, volume or melody.	Expresses likes and dislikes of familiar songs. Explores shaking, pounding and tapping various instruments. Claps to beat (not always consistently). Understands difference between singing and speaking voices.
	CA 2 Dance & Movement	CA 2a Expresses through dance	Uses purposeful gestures and body language to communicate.	Moves in own way to music and rhythm.
	CA 3 Visual Arts	CA 2b Develops movement techniques CA 3a Expresses through 2D and 3D visual art CA 3b Develops visual art techniques CA 4a Participates in dramatic and symbolic play	Moves body purposefully. Sways or bounces to music. Scribbles, colors or paints intentionally on paper. Uses hands and feet to explore a variety of media. Mimics observed behaviors and words.	Follows the movements of others. Explores personal space and direction. Explores a variety of artistic tools and media.
	CA 4 Drama	CA 4b Uses and creates props to represent other objects or ideas	Mimics the use of familiar objects.	Uses materials to create shapes and symbols. Uses words, actions and props to pretend. Uses realistic toys as replacements for real objects. Distinguishes between real and pretend.