

# Early Learning Continuum of Skills for Infants and Toddlers

Child development is a dynamic and gradual process, and each child develops in their own unique way. The *Experience Baby Developmental Continuum of Skills* outlines a series of observable skill benchmarks for children ages 3-18 months. Each open-ended *Shared Experience Card* is written to align with 1-2 of these sub-skills.



CONNECT & COMMUNICATE

## SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Skill / Skill Code	Sub-skill / Definition	Benchmark 1	Benchmark 2
SED 1 Self-Awareness	SED 1a Knows self and expresses confidence	Responds to name by cooing, smiling or turning head toward person talking. Explores hands and feet.	Responds to name and interacts with self in mirror. Recognizes self as being separate from others.
	SED 1b Expresses needs and preferences	Vocalizes or moves to express needs.	Seeks out or responds to favorite or preferred toys, objects or people.
	SED 1c Completes tasks independently	Reaches for a familiar object or toy.	Attempts to do a familiar task or explore objects independently.
	SED 1d Identifies emotions	Makes facial expressions or vocalizations to express engagement, contentment, stress or discomfort.	Shows a range of emotions with facial expressions and gestures.
SED 2 Self-Regulation	SED 2a Manages feelings and behavior	Calms with support from caregiver.	Seeks out a familiar adult, item or behavior to provide comfort when upset or in a new situation.
	SED 2b Follows routines and transitions	Reacts to changes in tone of voice or expression.	Participates in familiar routines and transitions with support.
SED 3 Social Relationships	SED 3a Develops relationships with adults	Recognizes, interacts with and responds to primary caregivers.	Stays close to and interacts with familiar adults for comfort and support.
	SED 3b Develops relationships with peers	Notifies, responds to and looks at peers.	Engages in simple interactions with peers.
	SED 3c Participates cooperatively in groups	Engages in simple social interactions, such as games like peek-a-boo.	Mimics actions of others.
	SED 3d Identifies and respects emotions of others	Adjusts behavior according to emotional or facial response of a familiar person.	Explores different facial expressions, such as in pictures.
SED 4 Problem-Solving	SED 4a Solves problems	Uses simple repeated actions or movements to solve a problem.	Explores how things work using repeated trial and error to solve a problem.
	SED 4b Responsible Decision-Making	Begins to recognize choices, such as reaching for a toy when multiple options are available.	Responds to simple guidance on safe and kind choices.

## LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT

	Young Infant	Older Infant	Young Toddler
LLD 1 Listening	LLD 1a Understands and interprets language	Turns head toward the person speaking.	Shows understanding of a variety of single familiar words, such as by pointing at named objects, people or body parts.
	LLD 1b Follows directions	Responds to speaking in the environment and imitates actions.	With prompts and gestures, follows a one-step direction.
LLD 2 Communication	LLD 2a Uses language to express information and ask/answer questions	Uses vocalizations and gestures to communicate.	Uses a few words, signs or word-like sounds to communicate.
	LLD 2b Uses conversational skills	Responds with babbles or sounds with prompting.	Responds to one exchange, but is not on topic.
	LLD 2c Uses sentence structure	Mimics single sounds.	Communicates using one- to two-word sentences.
	LLD 2d Uses and expands vocabulary	Uses sounds and gestures to communicate.	Repeats words heard frequently in environment.
LLD 3 Phonological Awareness	LLD 3a Rhyme	Listens to and moves to rhyming songs.	Repeats the last word in familiar rhymes when prompted.
	LLD 3b Hears Large Units of Sound	Babbles and vocalizes using sound, volume and inflection.	Repeats words or short sentences.
	LLD 3c Hears Small Units of Sound	Coos and makes sounds such as "oo" and "ah."	Imitates or repeats sounds and tones.
LLD 4 Alphabetic Knowledge	LLD 4 Identifies letters, makes letter-sound connections and decodes words	Explores books and toys with letters and related images.	Participates in letter songs and activities.
LLD 5 Concepts of Print	LLD 5 Uses print concepts and explores books and other text	Opens and closes books, looks at them and points to pictures.	Recognizes if pictures are right-side up. Turns pages from the front to the back of the book.
LLD 6 Reading Comprehension	LLD 6a Responds to text	Interacts by reaching for or patting when a book is read.	Chooses and holds a book and looks intently at each page.
	LLD 6b Retells, asks and answers questions about a text or story	Looks at and listens to books read aloud by an adult.	With prompting, answers "where" questions by pointing to pictures and repeating words from familiar stories.
LLD 7 Writing	LLD 7a Emergent Writing	With adult support, makes a mark with a writing tool or other material.	Makes random marks or draws with writing tools.
	LLD 7b Uses writing to represent meaning	Explores various tools used to write.	Makes handprints or fingerprints with adults.

## SOCIAL STUDIES

	Young Infant	Older Infant	Young Toddler
SS 1 Culture & Community	SS 1a Identifies community and family roles	Responds to and recognizes primary caregivers.	Recognizes the difference between a familiar and unfamiliar person.
	SS 1b Explores and respects cultures and traditions	Listens to stories or music related to cultures and traditions.	Participates in activities related to cultures or traditions.
	SS 1c Respects diversity	Sees diverse features of people in books, toys or media.	Explores people and their features, either in person or in pictures.
SS 2 Civics & Economics	SS 2a Follows rules, limits and expectations	Attends to others in immediate environment.	Participates in communal activities.
	SS 2b Understands concepts of money and economics	Reaches for desired objects.	Expresses a desire for an object or action. Expresses ownership such as by saying me or mine.
SS 3 Geography	SS 3a Identifies types of places	Responds to changes in the immediate environment.	Recognizes familiar places.
	SS 3b Interacts with maps	Navigates within a familiar environment.	Finds ways to move around obstacles in a familiar environment.
SS 4 History & Sense of Time	SS 4 Develops sense of time	Focuses on interactions with others for a short time.	Indicates the beginning or ending of an event



## PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

Skill / Skill Code	Sub-skill / Definition	Benchmark 1	Benchmark 2
<b>PD 1 Gross Motor</b>	<b>PD 1 Builds strength, coordination and balance of large muscles</b>	Rolls, crawls, sits independently and pulls self into a standing position. Kicks or grabs from a seated or lying position.	Walks and climbs. Carries, drags, kicks and tosses objects.
<b>PD 2 Fine Motor</b>	<b>PD 2 Builds strength and coordination of small movements</b>	Reaches for objects in sight and uses hands or feet to make contact with an object.	Purposefully grasps objects with finger and thumb. Uses hands to accomplish tasks, such as feeding self.
<b>PD 3 Safety</b>	<b>PD 3 Demonstrates safe practices</b>	Reacts to unexpected noises, lights or sights.	Responds to possible dangers in environment and avoids them when prompted.
<b>PD 4 Personal Care</b>	<b>PD 4a Implements self-care routines including rest, toileting, handwashing, exercise and dressing</b>	Cries or moves body when physical needs are not met.	Begins to participate in self-care activities and recognizes the difference between dirty and clean.
<b>PD 5 Nutrition</b>	<b>PD 4b Understands bodily functions</b>	Explores body parts, such as hands and feet.	Points to body parts when prompted.
	<b>PD 5 Follows healthy nutrition routines</b>	Cries when hungry.	Communicates the need to eat and feeds self some finger foods.

## CREATIVE ARTS

Skill / Skill Code	Sub-skill / Definition	Benchmark 1	Benchmark 2
<b>CA 1 Music</b>	<b>CA 1a Expresses through music</b>	Makes sounds to communicate feelings.	Repeats words in familiar songs and attempts to sing.
	<b>CA 1b Develops rhythm</b>	Responds to rhythm.	Responds to changes in rhythm.
	<b>CA 1c Develops tone</b>	Responds to sounds.	Responds to changes in sound, volume or melody.
<b>CA 2 Dance &amp; Movement</b>	<b>CA 2a Expresses through dance</b>	Uses body language to express feelings.	Uses purposeful gestures and body language to communicate.
	<b>CA 2b Develops movement techniques</b>	Moves body in a variety of ways.	Moves body purposefully such as by swaying or bouncing to music.
<b>CA 3 Visual Arts</b>	<b>CA 3a Expresses through 2D and 3D visual art</b>	Expresses emotions while exploring materials.	Scrabbles, colors or paints intentionally on paper.
	<b>CA 3b Develops visual art techniques</b>	Explores materials using gross motor movements and senses.	Uses hands and feet to explore a variety of media.
<b>CA 4 Drama</b>	<b>CA 4a Participates in dramatic and symbolic play</b>	Imitates simple movements and facial expressions.	Mimics observed behaviors and words.
	<b>CA 4b Uses and creates props to represent other objects or ideas</b>	Responds to props or puppets.	Mimics the use of familiar objects.



## APPROACHES TO LEARNING

Skill / Skill Code	Sub-skill / Definition	Benchmark 1	Benchmark 2
<b>ATL 1 Attention &amp; Persistence</b>	<b>ATL 1a Attends</b>	Focuses for a short time on a person, sound or thing.	Attends to what others are looking at or pointing to.
	<b>ATL 1b Persists</b>	Engages in a continued interaction or activity with a familiar object or adult.	Repeats actions to gain a result.
<b>ATL 2 Flexibility &amp; Play</b>	<b>ATL 2a Shows flexibility</b>	Shifts attention from one person or thing to another.	Shifts attention from one task to another with prompting and adult support.
	<b>ATL 2b Engages in play</b>	Explores and manipulates materials.	Entertains and plays by themselves without adult or child involvement.

## MATHEMATICS

Skill / Skill Code	Sub-skill / Definition	Benchmark 1	Benchmark 2
<b>M 1 Number Sense</b>	<b>M 1a Verbally counts numbers</b>	Listens to counting songs and chants.	Says or sings random numbers, may be out of order.
	<b>M 1b Identifies and writes numerals</b>	Sees numbers in everyday context.	Begins to identify numbers. Identifies the numeral 1.
	<b>M 1c Counting one-to-one, and composing and decomposing numbers</b>	Points to objects.	Uses one-to-one correspondence to match objects or pictures.
	<b>M 1d Number Quantities and Comparison</b>	Looks for an object that is taken out of sight.	Recognizes amounts up to two without counting.
	<b>M 1e Addition and Subtraction</b>	Watches an adult add or take away toys.	Adds to and removes objects from a group as prompted.
<b>M 2 Spatial Awareness</b>	<b>M 2a Understands how objects move in space</b>	Tries to put one object inside another.	Purposefully manipulates objects, such as turning or spinning them, to discover how things move or fit into a space.
	<b>M 2b Determines object location</b>	Participates as caregiver raises arms or legs and says up/down.	Follows simple positional directions such as on/off, over/under and up/down.
<b>M 3 Shapes</b>	<b>M 3 Identifies shapes and their characteristics</b>	Manipulates objects that are a variety of shapes.	Matches two identical shapes.
<b>M 4 Measurement</b>	<b>M 4a Measures and Estimates</b>	Recognizes when to use whole hand or just two fingers to pick up an object.	Explores size and weight of objects in relation to self.
	<b>M 4b Compares and Orders</b>	Picks up and puts down objects.	Places objects in a row in any order.
<b>M 5 Patterns</b>	<b>M 5 Copies, Creates, and Extends Patterns</b>	Plays predictable activities with caregivers, such as pat-a-cake and peekaboo.	Notifies things that repeat in the environment.
<b>M 6 Classification</b>	<b>M 6 Sorts and graphs</b>	Notifies when two objects are similar in some way.	Creates groups of objects by common characteristics but may be mixed or inconsistent.

## SCIENCE

Skill / Skill Code	Sub-skill / Definition	Benchmark 1	Benchmark 2
<b>SCI 1 Investigation &amp; Inquiry</b>	<b>SCI 1a Asks questions and makes predictions</b>	Looks for a person or toy that has moved out of sight.	Asks simple questions about a familiar environment through words or gestures.
	<b>SCI 1b Observes, describes and records</b>	Uses senses to explore environment.	Demonstrates curiosity about objects by touching and manipulating them. Begins to understand cause and effect.
<b>SCI 2 Natural &amp; Earth Science</b>	<b>SCI 2a Understands living and nonliving things</b>	Explores immediate environment using senses.	Plays with natural materials and reacts to animals or plants in the immediate environment.
	<b>SCI 2b Demonstrates knowledge of Earth's environment</b>	Reacts to weather changes in immediate environment.	Points to and notices natural elements, such as clouds, rain and wind.
<b>SCI 3 Physical Science</b>	<b>SCI 3a Explores forces and motion</b>	Kicks feet or shakes arms to make other objects move.	Uses body to push or pull toys.
	<b>SCI 3b Explores the physical properties of materials</b>	Uses senses to explore objects in an immediate environment.	Reacts to changes in texture, temperature, smell, sound or sight.
<b>SCI 4 Technology</b>	<b>SCI 4 Uses tools and technology to perform tasks</b>	Explores simple toys.	Begins to use simple toys purposefully.