Cognitive Development

Exploration and Inquiry 1

1 Birth-8 months 1.1

1 Displays reflexes that set the stage for sensory exploration toward intellectual development: 1.1.1

- a turns head toward nipple 1.1.1.A
- b grasps finger of caregiver when placed in palm 1.1.1.B

2 Directs attention towards caregiver's face or voice: 1.1.2

- a gazes at caregiver's face during feeding 1.1.2.A

3 Directs attention toward objects: 1.1.3

- a reaches and grasps for objects or stares at them 1.1.3.A
- b reacts to new objects, voices, sounds and touch by becoming more active or quiet 1.1.3.B

2 6-18 months 1.2

1 Manipulates, visually inspects, feels and mouths things in the environment: 1.2.1

- a moves toward toy 1.2.1.A
- b bangs on table with toy 1.2.1.B
- c fingers and inspects object 1.2.1.C

2 Takes time to investigate and may protest when play is interrupted. 1.2.2

3 Can use several senses at once to explore the environment: 1.2.3

- a mouths, then holds toy at a distance 1.2.3.A
- b shakes and then throws ball 1.2.3.B

4 Looks at and explores how a material reacts when acted upon: 1.2.4

- a water added to the sand table 1.2.4.A
- b popping bubbles with hands and feet 1.2.4.B

3 Indicators: 16-36 months 1.3

1 Independently explores the immediate environment to investigate what is there: 1.3.1

- a asks about a new toy or explores different textures in the natural environment 1.3.1.A
- b searches for a specific toy 1.3.1.B

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2 Tries new activities, materials and equipment: 1.3.2

a unfamiliar art materials 1.3.2.A

b different musical instrument 1.3.2.B

c joins in new song or finger play 1.3.2.C

3 Uses multiple senses to determine properties of things: 1.3.3

a lifts, shakes and listens 1.3.3.A

b smells, tastes and inquires of caregiver about the item 1.3.3.B

Concept Development and Working Memory 2

1 Birth-8 months 2.1

1 Uses sight, hearing and touch to examine an item to learn about it: 2.1.1

a mouths, bangs, grasps, releases and re-grasps 2.1.1.A

2 Looks for or orients toward dropped object: 2.1.2

a looks down when drops toy from a table 2.1.2.A

3 Repeats a pleasing sight, sound, or motion to show enjoyment and a desire to continue: 2.1.3

a looks towards a musical toy to continue interaction 2.1.3.A

4 Repeats a previously successful sound or motion: 2.1.4

a kicks or swats mobile and repeats over days and week 2.1.4.A

b continues to bang an object to repeat a sounds 2.1.4.B

5 Imitates sounds and gestures. 2.1.5

6 Finds hidden objects: 2.1.6

a uncovers a partially hidden toy under a blanket or cloth 2.1.6.A

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2 6-18 months 2.2

1 Remembers location of favorite object: 2.2.1

a asks for objects out of sight 2.2.1.A

b persists in search for a desired object when it is hidden 2.2.1.B

2 Remembers games and toys from the previous day. 2.2.2

3 Anticipates people's return, time for nap, etc. within context of daily routine. 2.2.3

4 Imitates actions across a change in context; beginning of ability to fantasize and role-play: 2.2.4

a imitates mom on the phone when at child care setting 2.2.4.A

b uses another object or person as a tool: 2.2.4.B

c asks to be picked up to reach something 2.2.4.C

d rolls toward a toy to reach it 2.2.4.D

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5 Understands “more” in reference to food or simple play: 2.2.5

a responds appropriately when asked if child wants more crackers 2.2.5.A

6 Begins to think about actions before doing them: 2.2.6

a chooses a toy, book, or doll from a group 2.2.6.A

b enjoys taking things out of a container and putting them back 2.2.6.B

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3 Indicators: 16-36 months 2.3

1 Uses familiar objects in combination: 2.3.1

a uses spoon in bowl, doll in bed, and person in car 2.3.1.A

2 Engages in make believe play acting out simple dramatic play themes with others: 2.3.2

a “You baby, me momma” 2.3.2.A

b pretends to be an animal 2.3.2.B

3 Recognizes that the words “two, three, four, etc.” are numbers: 2.3.3

a recites numbers with prompting or adult cues 2.3.3.A

b uses some number words during play or activity: “I want two” 2.3.3.B

4 Imitates counting rhymes: 2.3.4

a One, Two Buckle My Shoe, Three Little Monkeys 2.3.4.A

5 Shows some understanding of daily time sequence: 2.3.5

a time for nap, lunch, outdoor play 2.3.5.A

6 Begins to solve simple problems in his or her head: 2.3.6

a moves a toy to get to another object 2.3.6.A

b stands on block or another object to reach an item 2.3.6.B

Reflection and Problem-Solving 3

1 Birth-8 months 3.1

1 Engages in simple repeated actions to reach a goal, such as trying to get whole hand and then fingers or thumb in mouth. 3.1.1

2 Anticipates being lifted and moves body accordingly: 3.1.2

a stiffens body in preparation for being lifted 3.1.2.A

b stretches arms up toward caregiver 3.1.2.B

c tries to lift head toward caregiver 3.1.2.C

3 Uses own actions or movements to solve simple problems, such as rolling to the side to reach an object or kicking to make something move. 3.1.3

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2 6-18 months 3.2

Begins to focus attention on one activity or toy for a short period of time. 3.2.1

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2 Explores how to make something happen again or how something works by doing actions over and over again: 3.2.2

a repeatedly filling a container and emptying it out 3.2.2.A

3 Tries different solutions to everyday problems until discovering one that works. 3.2.3

4 May try the same strategy multiple times even if it is not working. 3.2.4

3 Indicators: 16-36 months 3.3

1 Engages in activities for longer periods of time, including make believe play. 3.3.1

2 Tries several times to solve more challenging problems, often using a combination of actions or behaviors: 3.3.2

a determined to reach the sink and pulls over a block to stand on, then adds a book to make it higher 3.3.2.A

3 Uses experimenting to figure out solutions to everyday problems, including in social situations: 3.3.3

a two children both want to fit into a small car and agree to take turns 3.3.3.A

4 Begins to develop ability to find a solution using mental representation. 3.3.4

Mathematical Thinking
4

1 Birth-8 months 4.1

1 Observes and feels the sequence of simple daily routines: 4.1.1

a rocking to sleep 4.1.1.A

b riding in a stroller 4.1.1.B

c listening to an adult voice reading or singing 4.1.1.C

2 Explores special relationships with objects: 4.1.2

a picks up different sized balls 4.1.2.A

3 Places shapes into shape sorter (not always in the correct space) 4.1.3

4 Demonstrates understanding of simple number concepts: 4.1.4

a uses sign language to ask for “More” of something 4.1.4.A

b takes two crackers when prompted, “Take two crackers” 4.1.4.B

5 Uses sensorimotor exploration to experience various textures, patterns, sounds, and smells. 4.1.5

2 6-18 months 4.2

1 Follows simple directions related to position: 4.2.1

a puts toys “in” basket after prompted 4.2.1.A

2 Uses simple nesting or stacking toys: 4.2.2

a nests three or four cups 4.2.2.A

b stacks three or four cups or foam blocks 4.2.2.B

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3 Groups a few objects by shape, color or size: 4.2.3

a finds two or three toys that have the same simple shape, color 4.2.3.A

4 Understands time words such as “after,” “before”: 4.2.4

a “Before we go outside, we have to put on your coat.” 4.2.4.A

b explores spatial relationships: Attempts to fit own body in boxes, tunnels 4.2.4.B

5 Solves simple manipulative problems: 4.2.5

a crawls or walks around a toy 4.2.5.A

3 Indicators: 16-36 months 4.3

1 Verbally Counts (not always in the correct order): 4.3.1

a says “one, two, six” 4.3.1.A

2 Recognizes and names a few numerals: 4.3.2

a notices numbers within the environment and identifies a few by name 4.3.2.A

3 Follows simple directions related to proximity: 4.3.3

a set your shoes “beside” your cot for naptime 4.3.3.A

4 Makes comparisons between two objects: 4.3.4

a identifies the larger object when shown 4.3.4.A

5 Shows interest in simple patterns in the environment: 4.3.5

a points to pedestrian crosswalk and says “white, black, white, black” 4.3.5.A

6 Shows interest in patterns and sequences: 4.3.6

a attempts to follow a pattern with large beads and string or on a peg board 4.3.6.A

b plays matching games 4.3.6.B

Scientific Reasoning 5

1 Birth-8 months 5.1

1 Explores properties of items by mouthing them: 5.1.1

a explores large pop beads by putting them in their mouth 5.1.1.A

2 Uses senses to investigate the natural environment around them: 5.1.2

a looks outward and watches leaves blowing in the wind 5.1.2.A

3 Begins to look for objects that are “hidden” or become “out of sight”. 5.1.3

2 6-18 months 5.2

1 Investigates new phenomena: 5.2.1

a reaches out to touch rain 5.2.1.A

b stops play to watch a novel element in the environment 5.2.1.B

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2 Shows basic awareness of cause and immediate effect: 5.2.2

a opens and closes, presses button to make sounds 5.2.2.A

3 Uses trial and error method effectively: 5.2.3

a successfully pushes buttons on a pop-up toy 5.2.3.A

b uses shape sorter with some success 5.2.3.B

3 Indicators: 16-36 months 5.3

1 Fills and empties containers with sand, water, or small toys. 5.3.1

2 Begins to ask “Why” questions to understand specific concepts. 5.3.2

3 Begins to notice differences and similarities: 5.3.3

a kiwi is sweet and a lemon is sour 5.3.3.A

b cows and dogs both have four legs 5.3.3.B

4 Uses simple tools in exploration and inquiry: 5.3.4

a magnifying glasses 5.3.4.A

b hammers 5.3.4.B

c tweezers 5.3.4.C

5 Explores different mediums and their properties: 5.3.5

a mixing sand and water cornstarch and water 5.3.5.A

Social Studies Learning 6

1 Birth-8 months 6.1

1 Engages in immediate and deferred imitation of facial expressions: 6.1.1

a smiles back at caregiver 6.1.1.A

b smiles when familiar adult re-enters room 6.1.1.B

c responds by patting mirror when sees own image reflected 6.1.1.C

2 Begins to notice differences in faces or adults. 6.1.2

3 Begins to notice new items in the environment. 6.1.3

2 6-18 months 6.2

1 Demonstrates knowledge about self: 6.2.1

a begins to show preference towards adults 6.2.1.A

b recognizes items that belong to them (bottle, blanket, etc.) 6.2.1.B

2 Reacts and responds to new environments (i.e. falls asleep in car and wakes up in a shopping mall). 6.2.2

3 Shows curiosity and points to new items in the environment. 6.2.3

4 Reacts and responds to changes in familiar adults (i.e. mom cuts hair, dad shaves beard, etc.). 6.2.4

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3 Indicators: 16-36 months 6.3

1. Shows basic understanding of people and how they live: 6.3.1
    a. imitates example of mother nursing younger sibling 6.3.1.A
2. Notices differences between people – gender, skin color, etc. 6.3.2
3. Seeks opportunities to label new items in the environment. 6.3.3
4. Asks questions about new people, materials and places in the environment. 6.3.4
5. Recognizes and seeks familiar places (i.e. stores, doctor's office etc.). 6.3.5
6. Shows interest in "helpers' in the community (fire, police, mail carriers, etc.). 6.3.6