Minnesota Early Childhood Indicators of Progress

Approaches to Learning

Components AL1-2: Initiative and Curiosity

AL1 Inquisitiveness Child explores the environment and seeks interaction with people and objects; willingly tries new things AL1

0-1 year

AL1.1 Shows interest in the environment primarily through looking and listening AL1.1

AL1.2 Responds to people by looking kicking legs, vocalizing, reaching AL1.2

AL1.3 Demonstrates readiness for new experiences AL1.3

1-2 years

AL1.4 Uses senses to explore their environment AL1.4

AL1.5 Seeks and taking pleasure in new skills AL1.5

2-3 years

AL1.6 Approaches new materials in the environment with interest AL1.6

3-4 years

AL1.7 Investigates and experiments with materials with enthusiasm AL1.7

AL1.8 Tries different ways of combining materials AL1.8

AL 1.9 Asks questions AL 1.9

4-5 years, K Readiness

AL1.10 Scans environment and notices new objects, materials and activities right away. Asks about them AL1.10

AL1.11 Eager to investigate new things and have new experiences AL1.11

AL2 Wonderment Child expresses interest in novelty AL2

0-1 year

AL2.1 Vocalizes in response to a new person, toy or experience AL2.1

1-2 years

AL2.2 Bangs, moves, throws and dumps materials with pleasure AL2.2

2-3 years

AL2.3 Turns objects around, upside down and inside out to examine characteristics AL2.3

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3-4 years

AL2.4 Verbally expresses interest when encountering novel objects or events AL2.4

4-5 years, K Readiness

AL2.5 Independently seeks out new experiences, objects, or materials for own enjoyment AL2.5

Components AL3-6: Attentiveness, Engagement and Persistence

AL3 Attending Child focuses visual and auditory attention on relevant aspects of the environment AL3

0-1 year

AL3.1 Recognizes primary caregiver and familiar objects by touch, sight, sound, smell AL3.1

1-2 years

AL3.2 Stays focused on activities for a short period of time AL3.2

2-3 years

AL3.3 Maintains attention for longer periods of time AL3.3

3-4 years

AL3.4 Returns to an activity after an interruption AL3.4

AL3.5 Engages in play with peers for extended period of time AL3.5

AL3.6 Attends in a large group for short periods AL3.6

4-5 years, K Readiness

AL3.7 Attends in large group activities led by teacher for sustained periods AL3.7

AL3.8 Participates in large group activities and discussions AL3.8

AL3.9 Listens to others AL3.9

AL4 Self-direction Child makes choices based upon own interests AL4

0-1 year

AL4.1 Shows preference for people, objects, and food AL4.1

1-2 years

AL4.2 Makes choices seeking occasional assistance from adult AL4.2

2-3 years

AL4.3 Makes choices independently AL4.3

3-4 years

AL4.4 Engages in self- initiated activities for sustained periods of time AL4.4

4-5 years, K Readiness

AL4.5 Creates a plan to achieve a goal and follows through to completion AL4.5

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AL5 Diligence Child is focused and productive AL5

0-1 year

AL5.1 Repeats actions intentionally to achieve goals AL5.1

1-2 years

AL5.2 Interacts with others, objects or activities for short periods of time AL5.2

2-3 years

AL5.3 Seeks assistance then persists to complete task AL5.3

3-4 years

AL5.4 Works at a task despite distractions AL5.4

4-5 years, K Readiness

AL5.6 Conscientiously attempts to complete assigned tasks AL5.6

AL6 Resilience Child responds to challenge by adapting AL6

0-1 year

AL6.1 Calms self when frustrated AL6.1

1-2 years

AL6.2 When upset, can recover in a reasonable amount of time AL6.2

2-3 years

AL6.3 Handles transitions comfortably AL6.3

3-4 years

AL6.4 Copes with change, persists and moves ahead AL6.4

AL6.5 Approaches new tasks with confidence AL6.5

4-5 years, K Readiness

AL6.6 Maintains a positive outlook in spite of challenges AL6.6

AL6.7 Demonstrates ability to adjust to changes AL6.7

Components AL7-9: Creativity

AL7 Immersion Child becomes absorbed in the process of exploration AL7

0-1 year

AL7.1 Looks and listens with intensity AL7.1

1-2 years

AL7.2 Explores environment with purpose AL7.2

2-3 years

AL7.3 Shows preference for certain activities, objects and materials through sustained involvement AL7.3

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3-4 years

AL7.4 Repeatedly becomes engrossed in activities of own choosing. AL7.4

AL7.5 Rarely shows boredom when engaged in preferred activities AL7.5

4-5 years, K Readiness

AL7.6 When interested in a topic seeks opportunities to learn more and satisfy own curiosity AL7.6

AL8 Playfulness Child demonstrates a sense of humor and imagination in their play AL8

0-1 year

AL8.1 Smile, coos and laughs AL8.1

AL8.2 Begins to be playful with familiar people and objects AL8.2

1-2 years

AL8.3 Explores and uses materials in new and unconventional ways AL8.3

AL8.4 Observes others when they are laughing and smiles or laughs too AL8.4

2-3 years

AL8.5 Shows interest in other's play and seeks out others to play AL8.5

AL8.6 Uses a variety of voice inflections and facial expressions in play; laughs AL8.6

3-4 years

AL8.7 Tries out various pretend roles AL8.7

AL8.8 Experiments with new ways to combine materials when playing AL8.8

4-5 years, K Readiness

AL8.9 Approaches tasks with imagination and inventiveness AL8.9

AL9 Production Child expresses ideas, thoughts and opinions and creates products that are unexpected, original and relevant AL9

0-1 year

AL9.1 Shows excitement and pleasure at making something happen (activates mobile by kicking foot, drops toy and hears a "bang") AL9.1

1-2 years

AL9.2 Wants to do things by self and has own way of doing thing AL9.2

AL9.3 Begins to play with toys, objects and materials in new, ways. AL9.3

2-3 years

AL9.4 Begins to organize play and carry out own plans AL9.4

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3-4 years

AL9.5 Engages in inventive social play AL9.5

AL9.6 Engages in inventive play with materials AL9.6

AL9.7 Tries out different ways to accomplish a task AL9.7

4-5 years, K Readiness

AL9.8 Becomes absorbed in the process of creating AL9.8

AL9.9 Purposefully works to create unique products of own choosing AL9.9

Components AL10-13: Processing and Utilizing Information

AL10 Working Memory Child stores and retrieves information in order to use it purposefully AL10

0-1 year

AL10.1 Demonstrates understanding of object permanence AL10.1

1-2 years

AL10.2 Uses some prior experiences to build new knowledge and solve problems AL10.2

AL10.3 Anticipates familiar, daily events AL10.3

2-3 years

AL10.4 Able to remember and pretend a sequence of events AL10.4

AL10.5 Recites simple songs, rhymes, a short sequence of letters, numbers, etc. AL10.5

3-4 years

AL10.6 Recalls and follows multi step directions of increasing complexity AL10.6

AL10.7 Recites complete songs or rhymes AL10.7

4-5 years, K Readiness

AL10.8 Independently carries out all of the steps in daily routines such as putting toys away, preparing for lunch, etc AL10.8

AL10.9 Participates in discussions about familiar topics and contributes relevant information AL10.9

AL11 Symbolic Representation Child uses sounds, actions, objects and materials (paint, clay, blocks, etc.) to express their ideas and understanding as well as to make new connections AL11

0-1 year

AL11.1 Imitates actions or makes a sound to represent or stand for an object or event (“Arf” for dog) AL11.1

1-2 years

AL11.2 Acts out a sequence of related actions to recreate personal experiences (feeding teddy bear with a spoon, etc) AL11.2

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2-3 years

AL11.3 Begins to use one object to stand for another in play (block as a telephone) AL11.3

AL11.4 After exploring and experimenting with materials, labels their creation AL11.4

3-4 years

AL11.5 Begins to intentionally plan how to use materials to express an idea(may have a story in mind when pretending AL11.5

AL11.6 Notices written words represent objects, people or events and begins to use in play AL11.6

4-5 years, K Readiness

AL11.7 Plans and creates elaborate play plots, stories, block structures and art projects AL11.7

AL11.8 Begins to use print as a tool to express thoughts, ideas and to intentionally communicate AL11.8

AL12 Cognitive Flexibility/ Reasoning Child considers more than one possible outcome to a problem or situation; begins to create theories for why things happen; can recognize how one thing relates to or affects another thing AL12

0-1 year

AL12.1 Recognizes their actions can cause a specific response AL12.1

1-2 years

AL12.2 Notices similarities and differences AL12.2

AL12.3 Anticipates what will happen next AL12.3

2-3 years

AL12.4 Makes inferences based on what is seen, heard, smelled, etc. AL12.4

AL12.5 Considers possibilities for why something happened AL12.5

3-4 years

AL12.6 Predicts and hypothesizes what will happen next AL12.6

AL12.7 Forms theories about why things happen AL12.7

4-5 years, K Readiness

AL12.8 Draws conclusions and can explain their thinking AL12.8

AL12.9 Considers another point of view and will change opinion or idea when faced with new information AL12.9

AL12.10 Collaborates with others to investigate a situation or problem AL12.10

AL13 Problem Solving Child seeks and finds solutions to problems AL13

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0-1 year

AL13.1 Notices and pays attention to things that seem amiss AL13.1

1-2 years

AL13.2 Examines objects that don't respond as usual; attempts to make object work as expected AL13.2

2-3 years

AL13.3 Communicates to others that there is a problem and request that they solve it AL13.3

3-4 years

AL13.4 Makes guesses about how a problem might be solved and with support is willing to follow through to a solution AL13.4

4-5 years, K Readiness

AL13.5 Independently attempts to solve problems AL13.5

AL13.6 Explains the possible solution and the outcome AL13.6

AL13.7 Evaluates the outcome of attempted solutions and makes revisions if necessary AL13.7