

'CRUCIAL SKILLS' IN CHILD DEVELOPMENT – INFANT TODDLER



	G = Great	F = Fearless	C = Clinicians	C = Create	S = Solutions
Age	Gross Motor	Fine Motor	Communication	Cognitive	Social-Emotional
Newborn	Moro primitive reflex Moves arms & legs	Hand grasp primitive reflex Sees to turn toward face & seek eye contact	Suck primitive reflex → swallow milk → breathe Hears to prefer human voice Cries to express needs	Explores with eyes	Hunger & satiety cues Sleep almost equal day-night
2 months	Kicks legs Lifts head	Moves arms	Hears to turn toward parent's voice	Looks at face	Parent knows cues Parent starts sleep routine
4 months	Lifts head & chest	Primitive reflex absent Sees to follow past midline Hands to midline, watches them	Makes eye contact Hears to coo Voluntary suck (feeds 4-6 times daily)	Explores with mouth	Calmed by parent Sleeps night more than day
6 months	Primitive reflexes absent Head control & other solid food readiness	Bats at toys (both hands equally) Sees to grasp rattle (fisted grasp) Explores food with hands (parent might offer spoon & fork with supervision)	Participates in back & forth vocal turns (with eye contact)	Goal- directed actions	Social smile; shares enjoyment Responds to joint attention (follows gaze) Watches other infants
9 months	Sits unsupported Rolls Stands supported	Ulnar / radial-palmar grasp (parent offers finger foods, mealtime utensil and cup routine) Holds cube between 2 hands	Hears to babble Starts soft lumpy solids	Object permanence	Attachment signs start Back & forth play / facial expressions, with eye contact
12 months	Pulls to stand	Still uses hands equally Raking pincer grasp	Intentional communication: Uses gestures with eye contact (& facial expressions) Hears to readily respond to name Hears to follow familiar directions & babble Bites & chews (feeds ~ every 2.5- 3 hours)	Imitates actions Explores with hands (cause-effect play, trial & error problem- solving)	Social referencing; responds positively to people games
15 months	Stands up alone	Mature pincer grasp Turns pages (board book)	Vocalizes with gesture (with eye contact & facial expressions) Hears to jargon Hears to say first words Drinks from open cup	Functional toy play	Initiates & responds to joint attention, with alternating gaze (extends object toward, follows point) Imitates child
18 months	Walks well, carrying toys	Puts object in and out Self-feeds (fingers) Has weaned from bottle	Consistently gestures; makes communication repairs Hears to follow 1-step directions Hears to say 10 single words No eating concern	lmitates new play	Initiates joint attention (points with alternating gaze)

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