

'CRUCIAL SKILLS' IN CHILD DEVELOPMENT - INFANT TODDLER



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Asso	G = Great	F = Fearless	C = Clinicians	C = Create	S = Solutions
Age	Gross Motor Moro primitive	Fine Motor Hand grasp primitive	Communication Suck primitive reflex present →	Cognitive	Social-Emotional
Newborn	reflex present Moves arms & legs	reflex present Sees to seek eye contact	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	Sees to follow object past midline Brings hands together in midline, watches them	Makes eye contact Hears to coo (e.g. ah, eh) Voluntary suck emerges, suck reflex starts to fade (feeds 4-6 times daily)	Explores with mouth	Calmed by parent Sleeps night more than day
6 months	Moro reflex absent Head control & other solid food readiness	Hand grasp reflex absent Bats at toys Fisted grasp Explores food with hands	Participates in back & forth vocal turns (with eye contact)	Goal- directed actions	Social smile Shares enjoyment Follows parent's gaze (to see where parent is looking) Watches other infants
9 months	Sits unsupported Rolls Supported standing (hands held for balance)	Uses ulnar-palmar grasp (4 th /5 th fingers and palm) or radial- palmar grasp (1 st /2 nd fingers and palm) Holds cube between 2 hands	Hears to babble (reduplicated babble e.g. bababa) Starts soft lumpy solids	Object permanence (e.g. uncovers toy that they just watched get hidden)	Attachment signs start Multiple circles of communication in a row (e.g. imitates facial expressions, combined with eye contact)
12 months	Pulls to standing (by holding onto furniture)	Still uses hands equally Uses raking pincer grasp (thumb against side of curled index finger)	Intentional communication (uses gestures with eye contact) Hears to readily respond to name, follow familiar directions (e.g. 'Lift your legs.' when changing diaper), and babble (variegated babble e.g. madadee) Bites & chews soft cut-up family foods; suck reflex absent; feeds ~ every 2.5-3 hours	Imitates actions Cause-effect play; trial & error problem- solving	Social referencing Responds positively when parent initiates people games (e.g. laughs during peek-a- boo)
15 months	Gets to standing alone (from supine, by pushing with hands and feet on floor)	Uses mature pincer grasp Turns pages (board book)	Vocalizes combined with gesture (with eye contact & facial expressions) Hears to jargon (child's babbling sounds like intonations of talking) Hears to say first words Bites open cup when drinking (cup likely held by parent)	Functional toy play	Looks toward where parent is pointing Shows parent object by extending it toward them (alternating gaze between parent and object) Imitates child
18 months	Walks well, carrying toys	Puts object in/out of container Self-feeds (using fingers) Has weaned from bottle	Consistently uses gestures Communication repairs if misunderstood Hears to follow 1-step directions (e.g. 'Show me your nose) Hears to say 10 single words	Imitates parent during new play (e.g. sneezes to make toy fall off head)	Points to show parent objects (while alternating gaze) Accepts some food from all food groups (some selective eating is typical)