



The "Red Flag"

Early Intervention Referral Guide for children 0 – 5 years



How to use this resource:

This resource is a tool to help you to determine whether a child may have developmental delays. It will allow you to refer early before the child begins to struggle to achieve tasks usually managed by children of the same age.

Step 1 - Find the child's age across the top of the table below.

Step 2 - Read through the list and identify if the child is demonstrating any of the Red Flags at their age level.

Step 3 - If the child is between age levels (e.g. 2 yrs 5 months) check the lower age level for Red Flags (ie. 2 yrs)

When to be concerned?

One or more Red Flags (in any area) is a sign of delayed development.

Who to go to?

Parents:

If you have concerns about your child's development, please contact your Family Doctor or Child Health Nurse (1300 366 039).

Health Professionals:

If you have screened and identified any Red Flags, please contact your local Child Development Service.

Who helps with these Red Flags?

Children aged 0 – 5 years who have a developmental concern, may benefit from the services from any of the following:

- Paediatrician
- Speech Pathologist
- Occupational Therapist
- Physiotherapist
- Social Worker
- Psychologist.

Local Child Development Service

Child Development Program

Ph: 3335 8888 Fax: 3335 8869

Please note: Waiting times apply and can be indicated at Intake.

Parents - It is advisable to call your Doctor or Child Health Nurse before calling this number.



Developed by
Child Development Program
Children's Health Services
 in conjunction with GP partners

RED FLAG REFERRAL GUIDELINES

	6 MONTHS	9 MONTHS	12 MONTHS	18 MONTHS	2 YEARS	3 YEARS	4 YEARS	5 YEARS	RED FLAGS AT ANY AGE
<p>Social/Emotional</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Does not smile or squeal in response to people 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not sharing enjoyment with others using eye contact or facial expression 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Does not notice someone new Does not play early turn taking games (e.g. peekaboo, rolling a ball) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lacks interest in playing and interacting with others 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> When playing with toys tends to bang, drop, or throw them rather than use them for their purpose (e.g. cuddle doll, build blocks) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No interest in pretend play or other children Difficulties in noticing and understanding feelings in themselves and others (e.g. happy, sad) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unwilling/ unable to play cooperatively 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Play is different than their friends 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not achieving indicated developmental milestones Strong parent concerns
LACK OF OR LIMITED EYE CONTACT									
<p>Communication</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not starting to babble (e.g. adah; oogoo) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No gestures (e.g. pointing, showing, waving) Not using 2 part babble (e.g. gaga, arma) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No babbled phrases that sound like talking No response to familiar words 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No clear words Cannot understand short requests eg. 'Where is the ball?' 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Does not have at least 50 words Not putting words together eg. 'push car' Most of what is said is not easily understood 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Speech difficult to understand Not using simple sentences e.g. big car go 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Speech difficult to understand Unable to follow directions with 2 steps 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Difficulty telling a parent what is wrong Cannot answer questions in a simple conversation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Significant loss of skills Lack of response to sound or visual stimuli
<p>Fine Motor and Cognition</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not reaching for and holding (grasping) toys Hands frequently clenched 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unable to hold and/or release toys Cannot move toy from one hand to another 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Majority of nutrition still liquid/puree Cannot chew solid food Unable to pick up small items using index finger and thumb 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not holding or scribbling with a crayon Does not attempt to tower blocks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No interest in self care skills eg. feeding, dressing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Difficulty helping with self care skills (e.g. feeding, dressing) Difficulty manipulating small objects e.g. threading beads 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not toilet trained by day Unable to draw lines and circles 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Concerns from teacher about school readiness Not independent with eating and dressing Cannot draw simple pictures (e.g. stick person) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Poor interaction with adults or other children Difference between right and left sides of body in strength, movement or tone
<p>Gross Motor</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not rolling Not holding head and shoulders up when on tummy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not sitting without support Not moving eg. creeping or crawling motion Does not take weight well on legs when held by an adult 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not crawling or bottom shuffling Not pulling to stand Not standing holding on to furniture 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not attempting to walk without support Not standing alone 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unable to run Unable to use stairs holding on Unable to throw a ball 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not running well Cannot walk up and down stairs Cannot kick or throw a ball Cannot jump with 2 feet together 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cannot pedal a tricycle Cannot catch, throw or kick a ball Cannot balance well standing on one leg 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Awkward when walking, running, climbing and using stairs Ball skills are very different to their peers Unable to hop 5 times on each foot 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Loose and floppy movements (low tone) or stiff and tense (high tone)

Parents - If there are Red Flags call your Family Doctor or Child Health Nurse

Professionals - REFER EARLY – DO NOT WAIT

Last revised April 2010.

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