

# Developmental Continuum of Skills

## PRESCHOOL

Individual children develop at a unique pace.		Toddler	Preschool	Pre-Primary	
Skill	Goal	Benchmark C	Benchmark D	Benchmark E	
Social and Emotional Development	1 Self Concept	1.1 Expresses preference	Expresses likes and dislikes.	When given two to three options, chooses his/her most desired option.	Describes preferences of self and others.
		1.2 Takes responsibility	Asserts a desire to start or end an activity. Asks for help.	Initiates an activity and seeks help to complete it.	Independently completes a familiar activity and offers to help others with a similar activity.
		1.3 Identifies and manages feelings	Experiments and role-plays with a range of emotions.	Recognizes personal feelings. Controls impulses with reminders.	Names some personal feelings and uses strategies to manage behavior.
	2 Self Direction	2.1 Follows rules and routines	With prompting, follows rules and routines.	Follows rules and routines. Expresses feelings about fairness.	Explores personal limits. Identifies when others are or are not following familiar rules and routines.
		2.2 Maintains attention	Focuses on an engaging activity for a short period of time independently or with an adult.	Practices or repeats an activity many times until successful.	Sustains focus for at least five minutes, persisting even if there are problems or distractions.
		2.3 Transitions and adapts	Anticipates what comes next within a daily routine. Redirects to a new activity with help from caregivers.	Recognizes when the typical routine is not followed and identifies the change.	With support, negotiates ways to handle non-routine transitions.
	3 Social Relationships	3.1 Builds positive relationships	Plays side-by-side with a new or familiar person.	Joins a group and participates in group play.	Initiates play, conversations and interactions with one or more persons.
		3.2 Cooperates	Helps or participates in an activity when asked.	Plays cooperatively with others and begins to share. Asks adult to help solve social problems.	Seeks out opportunities to help others. Tries to solve own social problems.
		3.3 Cares for and responds to others	Demonstrates concern for someone who is sad or upset.	Explains a reason why someone may be happy or sad.	Tries to comfort and assure familiar children or adults.
Physical Development	4 Gross Motor	4.1 Builds strength and balance	Runs and balances on a wide beam.	Balances and hops on one foot.	Hops from one foot to the other. Begins to skip.
		4.2 Coordinates large movements	Throws objects in an intended direction. Catches objects against body.	Throws both overhand and underhand. Catches or kicks moving objects.	Coordinates multiple movements in simple sequences.
	5 Fine Motor	5.1 Controls small movements	Opens, closes, twists and pulls objects.	Snips with scissors. Strings large beads.	Follows a straight line when cutting and drawing. Buttons, zips, buckles and laces.
		5.2 Uses drawing/writing tools	Holds drawing/writing tools with whole hand and may use whole arm to make intentional marks.	Uses fingers to grasp and manipulate drawing/writing tools with increasing control.	Uses a mature tripod grip with drawing/writing tools.
	6 Health and Safety	6.1 Makes healthy food and exercise choices	Anticipates the need to eat, rest and drink.	Identifies food and serves a portion into bowl or plate. Follows a routine of rest and active play.	Identifies food groups and sorts food. Chooses between two appropriate food options or rest options.
		6.2 Practices good hygiene	With help, participates in healthy habits and healthcare routines. Names body parts.	Describes the function of basic body parts. Regulates toileting and hand-washing needs. Describes how s/he feels and the location of pain.	Explains how germs spread and simple strategies for preventing the spread.
6.3 Demonstrates safe practices	Follows simple safety rules.	Identifies dangerous situations and seeks out help.	Describes reasons for safety rules and reminds others to follow them.		
Language and Literacy	7 Listening Comprehension	7.1 Comprehends spoken language	Responds to simple statements and questions.	Listens to a story or request and then responds appropriately.	Expands on stories and information shared orally.
		7.2 Follows verbal directions	Follows related two-step directions given verbally.	Follows unrelated two-step directions given verbally.	With prompting, follows multi-step directions given verbally.
	8 Communication	8.1 Communicates ideas	Communicates needs, desires and ideas using simple sentences.	Asks simple questions and stays on topic for two to three exchanges.	Tells stories and engages in conversations through multiple exchanges.
		8.2 Speaks in sentences	Says two- to four-word sentences and repeats short phrases.	Speaks in sentences but does not always follow grammatical rules.	Speaks in simple complete sentences. Uses question words in speech.
	9 Vocabulary	9.1 Builds vocabulary	Identifies familiar people, places, and objects. Asks what a specific person or object are called.	Describes familiar people, places and objects. Seeks additional words for new ways to describe.	Includes new and technical words in everyday conversations. Asks what unfamiliar words mean.
	10 Phonological Awareness	10.1 Hears small units of sound	Shows awareness of separate words in spoken language.	Identifies words that have a similar beginning sound.	Identifies the beginning and ending sounds of words.
		10.2 Identifies rhyme and alliteration	Suggests a missing rhyming word within a poem or song.	Identifies when two words rhyme or don't rhyme.	Suggests a series of rhyming words when given a word.
	11 Concepts of Print	11.1 Demonstrates print knowledge	Identifies the front/back and top/bottom of a book. Indicates where to start reading on each page.	Identifies letters, words, spaces and some punctuation. Follows the direction of text.	Touches a written word on the page for each spoken word (but not necessarily the correct word). Tracks print from the end of one line to the beginning of the next line.
		12 Letter/Word Recognition	12.1 Identifies letters and words	Recognizes the difference between pictures, letters and numbers in print.	Recognizes some common words in print; such as their his/her name, mom, dad or stop.
	12.2 Makes letter-sound connections		Recognizes the sound of the first letter in his/her name.	Identifies six to seven letters and their sounds.	Identifies twelve to fifteen letters and their sounds. Recognizes that letters make up words.
	13 Reading Comprehension	13.1 Responds to text	Talks about pictures and ideas in familiar stories.	Anticipates what come next in familiar stories. Expresses likes or dislikes within the story.	Relates to the characters or events of the story and shares a similar experience or object from own life.
		13.2 Retells, asks and answers questions	Answers "What...?" questions about stories and books. Recalls the name of the main character.	Participates with others in the retelling of a story by pointing at pictures or role-playing with props.	Retells portions of a story. As the story is read, asks and answers simple questions about characters, setting and events.
	14 Emergent Writing	14.1 Writes name, words and sentences	Writes letter-like forms and creates his/her own symbols.	Attempts to print or copy familiar symbols and letters, especially those that are in own name.	Prints first name. Copies print. Uses inventive spelling.
		14.2 Expresses through writing	Scribbles or draws marks as a representation of an object or person.	Draws lines, circles or shapes and explains who or what they represent.	Uses a combination of drawing, dictating and writing to express and record an event or idea.
Mathematics and Reasoning	15 Number Concepts	15.1 Identifies numerals	Recognizes numerals to three.	Identifies numerals to five.	Identifies numerals to ten.
		15.2 Counts to determine quantity	Points to one object at a time while counting (not always in correct order).	Counts up to ten objects.	Counts up to twenty objects.
		15.3 Understands operations	Creates groups of objects. Adds and removes to group as prompted.	Creates and counts groups of up to five objects. Removes objects from the group as prompted and recounts.	Solves addition and subtraction problems within ten.
	16 Shapes	16.1 Identifies shapes	Identifies a few basic shapes.	Identifies four to six basic geometric shapes.	Describes basic and complex two- and three-dimensional shapes using own words.
		16.2 Manipulates parts and wholes	Puts together two to three pieces to create a whole object.	Uses a guide to put together six to twelve pieces to make a whole object.	Creates a whole object from many pieces without using a guide.
	17 Spatial Awareness	17.1 Flips and rotates objects	Recognizes familiar objects that are up-side down and turns them right-side up.	Matches two similar objects that are turned or positioned in different ways.	Identifies and corrects the orientation of familiar objects and symbols.
		17.2 Determines object location	When prompted, finds or places objects next to, between, in front of or behind self.	When prompted, finds or places objects next to, between, in front of or behind objects not related to self.	Explains the location of an object in relation to another object or person.
	18 Patterns and Sorting	18.1 Identifies and creates patterns	Copies patterns with two steps, such as red-blue, red-blue.	Creates and extends two-step patterns.	Creates and extends three- and four-step patterns and plays complex memory games.
		18.2 Matches, sorts and charts	Sort objects by one feature, such as size or color.	After sorting objects by one feature, sorts again by a different feature.	Sorts objects by more than one feature and explains why.
	19 Measurement	19.1 Estimates and measures	Determines which object is bigger (heavier, longer) when given two objects.	Uses non-standard measurement tools to estimate approximate size or volume. Verifies estimation with help.	Estimates (not always logically) size and volume. Measures and describes findings.
19.2 Compares and seriates		Compares and orders two to three objects according to size, length, hue or weight.	Orders multiple objects by one feature using process of elimination. Describes order using first, then and last.	Arranges and orders multiple objects by size, length, hue or weight. Recalls a sequence of events.	
20 Logic	20.1 Solves problems	Recognizes a problem and asks for help.	Tries out many possible solutions to a problem.	Uses previous knowledge to determine which solution to try first when solving a problem.	
Social Studies	21 Families and Communities	21.1 Identifies community and family roles	Identifies familiar people and pets.	Describes family members and their relationship to self. Identifies and role-plays familiar community helpers.	Identifies roles of self and others and describes the job each may do.
		21.2 Explores cultures and traditions	Recognizes familiar symbols or artifacts of family traditions or customs.	Describes the routines, familiar stories, traditions, foods and celebrations of own family and community.	Explains the meaning and importance of their own traditions and customs. Begins to learn about other cultures.
		21.3 Respects diversity	Identifies physical similarities and differences between self and others.	Interacts with peers who look, learn, believe or move differently.	Asks questions about how others live, eat, play and believe.
	22 Civics and Economics	22.1 Understands citizenship	Recognizes and attends to authority figures.	Follows familiar rules and helps make group decisions.	Applies familiar rules and suggests new rules in a variety of situations.
		22.2 Understands concepts of trade	Recognizes ownership of familiar objects.	Asks before taking an object that does not belong to self. Offers a toy or object to another person.	Explores the use of trade to receive objects or services.
	23 Geography	23.1 Identifies types of places	Identifies a variety of familiar places, such as the store, car, home or Grandma's.	Identifies different types of water bodies, streets, buildings and landmarks in own community.	Explains the purpose for different types of structures, such as bridges and buildings. Asks questions about landmarks.
		23.2 Uses maps	Follows a path.	Recognizes symbols and landmarks.	Identifies what is represented on a map. Draws pictures of current location.
24 History	24.1 Describes past events	Describes events as they happen. Uses words such as first, then.	Recalls information and events from the past.	Uses language of time to describe familiar sequences of events.	
Science	25 Scientific Reasoning	25.1 Inquires and predicts	Identifies personal interests and seeks more information.	When given a question, guesses a possible answer or outcome.	Asks questions or shows curiosity about scientific phenomenon. Predicts a few outcomes.
		25.2 Observes and experiments	Investigates an object or group of objects in multiple ways.	Observes and describes actions or changes that occur to familiar objects and people.	Explores scientific phenomenon and records observations by drawing.
		25.3 Evaluates and infers	Shares discoveries with others.	Uses past knowledge to explain observed changes.	Describes and compares observations of scientific phenomenon.
	26 Life Science	26.1 Identifies basic needs	Describes basic personal needs.	Meets most personal needs independently. Demonstrates an understanding that all people have needs.	Recognizes that all living things have similar basic needs. Distinguishes between needs and wants.
		26.2 Classifies organisms	Groups living things by common characteristics.	Identifies if an object can grow, eat or move.	Sorts organisms as living or non-living and explains why.
	27 Physical Science	27.1 Identifies properties of matter	With support, sorts objects by physical characteristics.	Describes basic physical properties of objects and materials in immediate environment.	Manipulates matter and observes any physical changes that may occur.
		27.2 Explores forces and motions	Explores motion by moving, rolling, blowing on or dropping a toy.	Explains how common vehicles, animals and people move. Sorts objects by type of movement.	Experiments with and explains invisible forces (ramps, magnets, etc.).
	28 Earth Science	28.1 Identifies weather and climates	Notifies changes in temperature or weather in the immediate environment.	Identifies the climate and weather in the immediate environment.	Explains how weather and climate changes may affect personal life. Identifies the current season.
		28.2 Explores ecosystems	Identifies familiar animals, plants or rocks in immediate environment.	Describes what familiar animals eat and where they live.	Describes a habitat and its characteristics.
29 Technology	29.1 Explores technology	Explores movable parts on toys and tools. Uses on and off switches.	Explores simple machines and interacts with simple electronic and screen toys.	Experiments with simple technology to solve problems or accomplish tasks.	
Creative Development	30 Music	30.1 Develops rhythm and tone	Claps to beat (not always consistently). Recognizes the difference between a singing and speaking voice.	Claps along to simple rhythm patterns. Controls voice to mimic the melodic direction.	Repeats simple rhythm patterns. Hears the change of musical phrases in a song. Sings along to familiar songs.
		30.2 Expresses through music	Expresses likes and dislikes of familiar songs. Explores sounds by shaking, pounding and tapping various instruments and objects.	Uses voice, common objects or instruments to create music. Identifies self as a musician.	Uses voice or instruments to express feelings or to mimic sound effects.
	31 Dance and Movement	31.1 Develops dance and movement techniques	Follows the movements of others. Explores personal space and direction.	Describes and demonstrates multiple ways to move body parts. Moves to the beat of a song.	Follows a leader to perform a simple movement pattern.
		31.2 Expresses through dance and movement	Moves in own way to music and rhythm.	Demonstrates different levels of energy in dance (gentle movements or big, exaggerated movements).	Demonstrates the difference between spontaneous and planned movement. Creates movements based on own ideas.
	32 Visual Arts	32.1 Develops artistic techniques	Explores a variety of artistic tools and media.	Chooses an object or art tool to use with a given medium for a desired effect.	Uses artistic tools and media to create intentional designs or images.
		32.2 Expresses through visual arts	Uses materials to create shapes and symbols.	Makes choices throughout the artistic process.	Plans and seeks out materials to make a creation.
33 Drama	33.1 Participates in dramatic play	Uses words, actions and props to pretend.	Plays a role in group dramatic play.	Assigns roles and plays out unscripted scenes in dramatic play.	
33.2 Uses and creates props	Uses realistic toys as replacements for real objects. Distinguishes between real and pretend.	Uses any object as a replacement for a realistic prop or real object.	Uses a combination of real and imaginary props or characters to play out a scene.		