

Social and Emotional Development

In order to utilize the best educational approach with your student, what Dr. Nielsen calls the [Five Phases of Educational Treatment](#), we need to look at the child's behavior. Look at the behaviors described below and select where you see behaviors that are regularly demonstrated by your student. If the child is at a higher level, some of the earlier developmental traits may have disappeared so be sure to review the next level up.

Student Name:

Date:

Developmental Age Observations: The child contacts or responds to contact by...

Birth-3 months

- ☐ clutching fingers or some hair of the adult
- ☐ clutching some of the adult's clothing
- ☐ smacking lips
- ☐ making "grrr" sounds
- ☐ by nodding, sucking, and grunting
- ☐ can be calmed by being taken in the arms and cuddled
- ☐ transfer of clutching/grasping to biting, pinching may be seen in older children

4-6 months

- ☐ babbling or crying consciously to get adult's attention or when nothing is wrong
- ☐ may scream or cry most of the day - possible that the screaming is a child's attempt at babbling
- ☐ may respond to contact by babbling
- ☐ shows anxiety to unfamiliar rooms, persons, toys

6-9 months

- ☐ molding his/her body into the shape of adults
- ☐ snuggles close to the adult
- ☐ touches adult's face or puts finger in eyes, mouth
- ☐ likes to be moved from the arms of one familiar person to another
- ☐ imitates the adult's movements, reaches hand toward light switch after adult turns on light
- ☐ seeing Mom or Dad after return causes joy
- ☐ shows joy when recognizing familiar voices
- ☐ may want to move his or her body the way he or she wants to move their body
- ☐ may be pulling their arms away and, kind of, hiding them
- ☐ may want to sit in a specific way
- ☐ if able to be held by an adult, may want to be held or positioned a certain way

9-15 months

- ☐ "showing objects" - wants to share interests with adult
- ☐ if adult does not respond, may attempt to establish contact by hitting the adult with the object (banging objects)
- ☐ refuses contact with persons whom he does not feel attached to
- ☐ puts arms around adult he feels attached to
- ☐ wants to drink from adult's cup or feed adult
- ☐ laughs and babbles in interactions with adult
- ☐ enjoys adult-learner games such as clapping hands and playing with lips
- ☐ may hit themselves or other people
- ☐ moving to the adult (pull to standing, walking or crawling)
- ☐ acts like he/she wants to sit on adult's lap, but as soon as he/she gets there, wants to get down
- ☐ may lean against the adult briefly, or rest an arm or a hand on the adult briefly

15-18 months

- ☐ picks up an object and gives it to adult with expectation adult will give the object back
- ☐ If adult will not engage in game, child looks for another adult who will engage in game
- ☐ tests activities that are allowed and not allowed
- ☐ demonstrates strong attachment to one or a few objects
- ☐ often has the need for physical contact, wants to be carried and sit on lap

18-24 months

- ☐ lends adult most cherished toy
- ☐ engages in building games as a contact game
- ☐ can react intensely to changes in daily routine
- ☐ throws a tantrum when crossed
- ☐ presents strong feelings of ownership: my mother, my toy
- ☐ plays language games with adults – jingles and rhymes

2-3 years

- ☐ contacts by hiding and then revealing himself with a shocked attitude
- ☐ involves adult in hiding games and games of searching for each other
- ☐ Involves adult in rough and tumble games
- ☐ wants to interfere in activities of an adult
- ☐ demonstrates his will in the presence of other children by claiming ownership of his toy
- ☐ appreciates help with things like dressing and undressing
- ☐ has a strong need for physical contact, holding hands while walking
- ☐ is able to engage in contact with only one adult at a time
- ☐ uses language more often in contacting others
- ☐ has difficulty accepting criticism
- ☐ has difficulty choosing between yes/no, coming/going, milk/juice, etc.
- ☐ can be quite rigid and will change results by demonstrating anger, passivity or withdrawal

3-4 years

- ☐ contacts by standing next to adult and leaning against him
- ☐ shows great independence, often thinks he can do more than he actually can
- ☐ can become very despaired when he has to receive help from the adult
- ☐ direct physical contact is most often replaced by conversation
- ☐ is eager to help with domestic activities
- ☐ leans against, places an elbow against or looks at an adult to receive a smile or a comment and then looks at others present to share this emotional experience with them.

Comments: