

# Preschool Field Officer Service

## Integrated Child, Family and Youth Services



### LEARNING ALERTS

Please note that these are just ideas; every child develops at a different rate.

#### BY SECOND BIRTHDAY

- Attempt to talk or repeat words
  - Understand some new words
  - Respond to simple questions with “yes” or “no”
  - Walk alone (with very little help)
  - Exhibit a variety of emotions; anger, delight, fear, surprise
  - Show interest in pictures
  - Recognise self in mirror (smile at, point to or state own name)
  - Make eye contact when responding to questions or making a request (unless this is a cultural taboo)
  - Attempt self – feeding (hold own cup to mouth and drink)
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#### BY THIRD BIRTHDAY

- Eat a fairly well-rounded diet, even though amounts are limited
  - Walk confidently with few stumbles or falls, climb steps with help
  - Avoid bumping into objects
  - Carry out simple, two-step directions, “Come to Daddy and bring your book”; express desires, ask questions
  - Point to and name familiar objects; use two- or three-word sentences
  - Enjoy being read to; help to hold the book, name and point to objects
  - Show interest in playing with other children (watching, perhaps imitating)
  - Indicate a beginning interest in toilet training runs to bathroom, pulls pants down, uses appropriate words)
  - Sort familiar objects according to a single characteristic such as type, colour, shape or size
  - Make eye contact when making request or responding to questions (unless this is a cultural taboo)
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#### BY FOURTH BIRTHDAY

- Have intelligible speech most of the time; have children's hearing checked if there is any reason for concern
- Understand and follow simple commands and directions
- State own name and age
- Play near or with other children
- Use three-word to four-word sentences
- Ask questions and maintain eye contact
- Stay with an activity for 3-4 minutes; play alone several minutes at a time
- Jump in place without falling
- Balance on one foot, at least briefly
- Help with dressing self
- Engage in pretend play, using common objects for different purposes

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#### BY FIFTH BIRTHDAY

- State his or her own name in full
- Identify simple shapes: circle, square, triangle
- Catch a large ball when bounced (have child's vision checked)
- Have good control of posture and movement
- Hop on one foot
- Show interest in and respond to surroundings, ask questions, stop to look at and pick up small objects
- Respond to statements without constantly asking to have them repeated
- Dress self with minimal adult assistance; manage buttons, zippers
- Take care of his or her own toilet needs; have good bowel and bladder control with infrequent accidents

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#### BY SIXTH BIRTHDAY

- Alternate feet when walking up and down stairs
- Speak in a moderate voice – not too loud, too soft, too high or too low
- Follow simple three step directions in stated order: "Please go to the cupboard, get a cup, and bring it to me."
- Use four to five words in acceptable sentence structure
- Cut on a line with scissors
- Sit still and listen to an entire short story (5 to 7 minutes)
- Maintain eye contact when spoken to (unless this is a cultural taboo)
- Play well with other children; listen, take turns, offer assistance
- Perform most self-grooming tasks independently (brush teeth, wash hands and face)

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**Developmental Profiles: Pre-birth through Twelve.** 6th Edition. K.E. Allen & L.R. Morotz;  
Wadsworth, Belmont USA, 2010