

# Preschool Field Officer Service

## Integrated Child, Youth and Family Services



## The 'Red Flags'



### Early Intervention Referral guide for Children 0-5 years

This resource is a tool to help you to determine whether a child may have developmental delays.

**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 (eg: 2 yrs 5mths) check the lower age 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 - If your GP does not agree with your concerns, consider seeking a second opinion.

You may wish to consult with a Maternal and Child Health Nurse and this link will provide you with information for Wyndham:

<https://www.wyndham.vic.gov.au/services/childrens-services/maternal-child-health/maternal-child-health-services>

The Wyndham MCH team can be contacted on 9742 8148

##### Educators:

If you have identified any red flags, please refer to:

IPC Health (<https://www.ipchealth.com.au/>) or

Early Childhood Intervention Services (ECIS)





(<http://www.education.vic.gov.au/childhood/parents/needs/Pages/ecis.aspx>)

Copies of referral forms can also be found in the Preschool Field Officer Service Support Guide – if your service has not received a copy, please call us on 9742 8199.

You will also find the PSFO Flowchart useful and this can also be found in the PSFO Support Guide.

**References** - Queensland Health – The "Red Flag" Early Intervention Referral Guide

# Red Flag Referral Guidelines

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

**PARENTS – If there are Red Flags, call your Family Doctor or Maternal & Child Health Nurse**

**PROFESSIONALS – REFER EARLY – DO NOT WAIT**