

Preschool Field Officer Service

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, and require referrals to be made.

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, seek 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>)

More information 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.

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	
 Social / Emotional	<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 co-operatively 	<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 Significant loss of skills Lack of response to sound or visual stimuli Poor interaction with adults or other children Difference between right and left sides of body in strength, movement or tone Loose and floppy movements (low tone) or stiff and tense (high tone) 	
 Communication	LACK OF OR LIMITED EYE CONTACT									
	<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 		
 Fine Motor and Cognition	<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) 		
 Gross Motor	<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 		

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

PROFESSIONALS – REFER EARLY – DO NOT WAIT