



MAKE THE
**FIRST FIVE
COUNT**SM

Warning Signs to Watch For

Five Things to Know:

1 Your child is unique and develops at his or her own pace.

2 Understanding the basics about child development will make you more aware of the skills your child should achieve.

3 Trusting your instincts - you know your child best. If something just doesn't feel quite right, share your concerns with your health care provider.

4 Early identification and treatment are key to a bright future for your child.

5 Easter Seals services.

We know the first five years of every child's life are an intensive developmental period. By age five, a child has begun to walk, talk, feed himself, make friends, and much more.

Make the first five years count for your child. Recognizing a problem is your very first step to ensure your child gets the services he or she needs early - at the time they can benefit the most.

Note: This list is not exhaustive; each child is unique and may reach developmental milestones slightly earlier or later than his or her peers.



Watch out if your child:

Before age 1

- Doesn't blink when shown a bright light
- Doesn't focus and follow a nearby object moving side to side
- Rarely moves arms and legs; seems stiff
- Seems excessively loose in the limbs, or floppy
- Doesn't respond to loud sounds

Age 1

- Does not crawl
- Drags one side of body while crawling (for over one month)
- Cannot stand when supported
- Does not search for objects that are hidden while he watches
- Says no single words ("mama" or "dada")

Age 2

- Does not speak at least fifteen words by eighteen months
- Does not use two-word sentences
- Does not seem to know the function of common household objects (brush, telephone, bell, fork, spoon) by fifteen months
- Does not imitate actions or words by the end of this period
- Does not follow simple instructions

Age 3

- Cannot stack four blocks
- Still clings or cries whenever his parents leave him
- Shows no interest in interactive games
- Ignores other children
- Doesn't respond to people outside the family

Age 4

- Is unable to separate from parents without major protest
- Is easily distracted and unable to concentrate on any single activity for more than five minutes
- Shows little interest in playing with other children
- Refuses to respond to people in general, or responds only superficially
- Rarely uses fantasy or imitation in play

Age 5

- Doesn't use plurals or past tense properly when speaking
- Doesn't talk about her daily activities and experiences
- Cannot build a tower of six to eight blocks
- Seems uncomfortable holding a crayon
- Has trouble taking off her clothing



If you suspect your child may have a problem, don't delay. Contact your family doctor, public health nurse, or Easter Seals in your area immediately, or visit MaketheFirstFiveCount.org for more information.

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