



Play-Based Assessment Observed Skill Checklist: Ages Two to Five

Child's Name: _____ Assessor: _____

Child's Date of Birth: _____ Chronological Age: _____

Date & Time of Assessment: _____ Primary Language: _____

Directions: Check off skills observed during play-based assessment.

By Age Two Years Zero Months



LANGUAGE/COMMUNICATION

- Uses two- to three-word phrases to communicate
- Follows single-step instructions
- Points to things or pictures when they are named
- Shows joint attention (looks at you, looks at item, looks back at you with social intent)
- Points to show you an item
- Engages in a social smile by directing it toward you

COGNITIVE

- Sorts shapes and colors
- Completes sentences and rhymes in familiar books

MOVEMENT/PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

- Stands on tiptoe
- Kicks a ball
- Begins to run

By Age Three Years Zero Months



SOCIAL/EMOTIONAL

- Joins in play

LANGUAGE/COMMUNICATION

- Engages in conversations with at least two back-and-forth exchanges
- Asks questions like "who," "what," "where," or "why"
- Says what action is happening in a picture or book (e.g., "running," "eating")
- Says their first name

COGNITIVE

- Draws a circle when shown how

MOVEMENT/PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

- Strings items together, like large beads or macaroni



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By Age Four Years Zero Months



SOCIAL/EMOTIONAL

- Pretends to be something else during play (e.g., teacher, superhero, dog)
- “Helps” (e.g., helps put away or carry items)

LANGUAGE/COMMUNICATION

- Says sentences with four or more words
- Says some words from a song, story, or nursery rhyme
- Talks about at least one thing that happened during their day
- Answers simple questions like “What is a coat for?”
- Speech should be understandable although some sound errors are still okay

COGNITIVE

- Names a few colors of items
- Tells what comes next in a well-known story
- Draws a person with three or more body parts

MOVEMENT/PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

- Catches a large ball most of the time

By Age Five Years Zero Months



SOCIAL/EMOTIONAL

- Follows rules or takes turns in a simple game

LANGUAGE/COMMUNICATION

- Answers simple questions about a book or story after you read or tell it to them
- Keeps a conversation going with more than three back-and-forth exchanges
- Uses or recognizes simple rhymes (e.g., “bat–cat,” “ball–tall”)

COGNITIVE

- Counts to 10
- Names some numbers between one and five when you point to them
- Uses words about time, like “yesterday,” “tomorrow,” “morning,” or “night”

MOVEMENT/PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

- Hops on one foot
- Uses scissors to cut paper
- Can write some letters of their name

Sources:

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). “Developmental Milestones.”

<https://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/actearly/milestones/index.html>

American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA).

“Communication Milestones.” <https://www.asha.org/public/developmental-milestones>



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