

The Nipissing District Developmental Screen is a checklist designed to help monitor your child's development.

Y N BY **SIX MONTHS** OF AGE, DOES YOUR BABY:

- 1 Swipe at and reach for objects within view?
- 2 Turn head and look in the direction of a new sound?
- 3 Respond to own name?
- 4 Smile and babble when given adult attention?
- 5 Vocalize pleasure and displeasure?  
(*squeal with excitement or grunt in anger*)\*
- 6 Seem to respond to some words? (*"daddy", "bye-bye"*)\*
- 7 Make sounds while you are talking to him/her?
- 8 Roll from back to side?
- 9 Push up on hands when on tummy? \*\* A
- 10 Sit with support? (*pillows*)\*
- 11 Use hands to reach, grasp, bang, and splash?
- 12 Bring hands or toy to mouth?
- 13 Pat and pull at your hair, glasses, or face?
- 14 Sleep and feed at regular times?



\* Examples provided are only suggestions. You may use similar examples from your family experience.

\*\* Item may not be common to all cultures.

The following activities for your baby will help you play your part in your baby's development.

I still like quiet time, so hug me, hold me, talk to me, sing to me, and read to me.

Comfort me when I am unhappy or fussy by rocking me, holding me close, or talking to me in a soft voice. Respond when I cry. Remember you can't spoil me.

Funny booties or colourful socks will encourage me to grab my feet. I may want to kick my legs and play with my feet.

Place toys in various positions and distances from me so I can reach out and grasp them. Say, "Get the ball".

I like objects of different colours, sizes, and textures to hold and squeeze so I can build my strength. Encourage me to use both hands.

Place me on my tummy and use a toy to encourage me to push up on my hands and try to reach up.

Encourage me to roll from my tummy to my back. I am learning how my body works and I want to explore my environment.

Show me the actions for "wave bye-bye" and "blow kisses" and I will learn to act them out myself.

Imitate sounds I make. My sounds may be changing to include more babbling. Try to get me to say them back to you as if we are having a conversation. I like it when you slow down and change your tone of voice ("Hiiii pretty baaaaby").

I enjoy it when you sing the same songs over and over again; *Itsy Bitsy Spider*, *This Little Piggy*, *Peek-a-boo* and *Pat-a-cake* are just some of my favourites.

When I'm not watching you, shake a rattle, squeeze a toy, or call my name from different parts of the room. This will help me to look in the direction of new sounds.

When I try to tell you something by looking, reaching, babbling, smiling, or crying, try to understand what I mean and say it with real words.

Help me to play. Prop me up in a corner of the couch or on the floor with support (blankets, pillows) and put some of my favourite toys within reach for me to play with. I may want to reach for the toys, but I'm still not too steady, so stay with me to keep me safe.

*My body is growing—now is a good time to get information on what to feed me.*

## Instructions for the Nipissing District Developmental Screen®

The **ndds** is a developmental screening tool designed to be completed by a parent or caregiver. It provides a snapshot of your child's development to discuss with your health care or child care professional. The areas of development covered by the **ndds** include vision, hearing, emotional, fine motor, gross motor, social, self-help, communication, and learning and thinking. The screens coincide with key developmental stages up to age six.

### 1. Choose the screen that matches your child's age

The ages are noted on each screen. If your child falls between two ages, use the earlier age (for example: if your child is 4½ years old use the 4 year old screen). Health care professionals may want to correct for prematurity based on their current clinical practice.

### 2. Answer the questions to the best of your ability

If you are not sure, try the question with your child before checking yes or no. Any examples provided are only suggestions. You may use similar examples from your family experience. The language and communication items can be asked in the child's first language. Items marked with \*\* may not be common to all cultures.

### 3. Follow-up with your health care and/or child care professional

If you answer "no" to any question or have any concerns about your child's development, follow-up with your health care and/or child care professional.

## Activities for your child

While the skills in each screen are expected to be mastered by most children by the age shown, the activities may be a bit more challenging. You can practice with your child to prepare him/her for the next developmental stage. To help you, each activity has a symbol that represents the main area of development.

If you have questions or concerns about using any activity for your child, contact a health care or child care professional.

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Users should bear in mind the following when using the Screen Forms: (i) The needs of each infant/child are unique. Each infant/child will develop differently and as such, any perceived limitations in development must be reviewed by a health care and/or child care professional to be properly assessed; (ii) While every effort has been made to make the Screen Forms as culturally, economically and geographically neutral as possible, it must be understood by users that they may still reflect some cultural, economic or geographic prejudices. As such, these prejudices may affect a specific infant's/child's results in a Screen Form without actually reflecting a developmental limitation. Again, users should contact a health care and/or child care professional to review the needs of an individual infant/child; (iii) The Screen Forms cannot contain every possible indicator of developmental limitations or goals to be met. As such, the Screen Forms are not designed for and should not be used to diagnose or treat perceived developmental limitations or other health needs. NDDS® makes no representation or warranties, express or implied. This includes, but is not limited to, any implied warranty or merchantability of fitness for a particular use or purpose, and specifically disclaims any such warranties and representations. NDDS® expressly disclaims any liability for loss, injury or damages incurred or occasioned as a consequence, directly or indirectly, of the use of the Screen Form.

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