

Appendix 3A 'Red flag' early intervention referral guide

Changing lives for the better

Central Queensland Hospital and Health Service



The "Red Flag" Early Intervention Referral Guide for children 0 – 5 years



How to use this resource

This resource is a tool to help you to determine whether a child may have developmental delays. It will allow you to refer early before the child begins to struggle to achieve tasks usually managed by children of the same age.

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 (e.g. 2 yrs 5 months) check the lower age level 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 or Child Health Nurse Phone: (07) 4992 7000

Health Professionals:

If you have screened and identified any Red Flags, please contact your local Child Development Service.

Who helps with these Red Flags?

Children aged 0 – 5 years who have a developmental concern, may benefit from the services from any of the following:

- Paediatrician
- Speech Pathologist
- Occupational Therapist
- Physiotherapist
- Social Worker
- Psychologist
- Dietitian

Local Child Development Service

Banana Community and Allied Health Services
Phone (07) 4992 7000
Office Hours 8.00 am to 4.30 pm
Monday to Friday

www.health.qld.gov.au/cq/child-development

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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	Does not smile or squeal in response to people	Not sharing enjoyment with others using eye contact or facial expression	Does not notice someone new Does not play early turn taking games (e.g. peekaboo, rolling a ball)	Lacks interest in playing and interacting with others	When playing with toys tends to bang, drop, or throw them rather than use them for their purpose (e.g. cuddle doll, build blocks)	No interest in pretend play or other children Difficulties in noticing and understanding feelings in themselves and others (e.g. happy, sad)	Unwilling / unable to play cooperatively	Play is different than their friends	Not achieving indicated developmental milestones
Communication	Lack of or limited eye contact								Strong parent concerns Significant loss of skills Lack of response to sound or visual stimuli
	Not starting to babble (e.g. adah; oogoo)	No gestures (e.g. pointing, showing, waving) Not using 2 part babble (e.g. gaga, amma)	No babbled phrases that sound like talking No response to familiar words	No clear words Cannot understand short requests eg. "Where is the ball?"	Does not have at least 50 words Not putting words together eg. "push car" Most of what is said is not easily understood	Speech difficult to understand Not using simple sentences e.g. big car go	Speech difficult to understand Unable to follow directions with 2 steps	Difficulty telling a parent what is wrong Cannot answer questions in a simple conversation	
Fine Motor and Cognition	Not reaching for and holding (grasping) toys Hands frequently clenched	Unable to hold and/or release toys Cannot move toy from one hand to another	Majority of nutrition still liquid/puree Cannot chew solid food Unable to pick up small items using index finger and thumb	Not holding or scribbling with a crayon Does not attempt to tower blocks	No interest in self care skills eg. feeding, dressing	Difficulty helping with self care skills (e.g. feeding, dressing) Difficulty manipulating small objects e.g. threading beads	Not toilet trained by day Unable to draw lines and circles	Concerns from teacher about school readiness Not independent with eating and dressing Cannot draw simple pictures (e.g. stick person)	Poor interaction with adults or other children Difference between right and left sides of body in strength, movement or tone
Gross Motor	Not rolling Not holding head and shoulders up when on tummy	Not sitting without support Not moving eg. creeping or crawling motion Does not take weight well on legs when held by an adult	Not crawling or bottom shuffling Not pulling to stand Not standing holding on to furniture	Not attempting to walk without support Not standing alone	Unable to run Unable to use stairs holding on Unable to throw a ball	Not running well Cannot walk up and down stairs Cannot kick or throw a ball Cannot jump with 2 feet together	Cannot pedal a tricycle Cannot catch, throw or kick a ball Cannot balance well standing on one leg	Awkward when walking, running, climbing and using stairs Ball skills are very different to their peers Unable to hop 5 times on each foot	Loose and floppy movements (low tone) or stiff and tense (high tone)

Parents - If there are Red Flags call your Family Doctor or Child Health Nurse
Professionals - REFER EARLY – DO NOT WAIT

