



Reading Fever®

Ready To Read

Developmental Milestones
for Reading Readiness



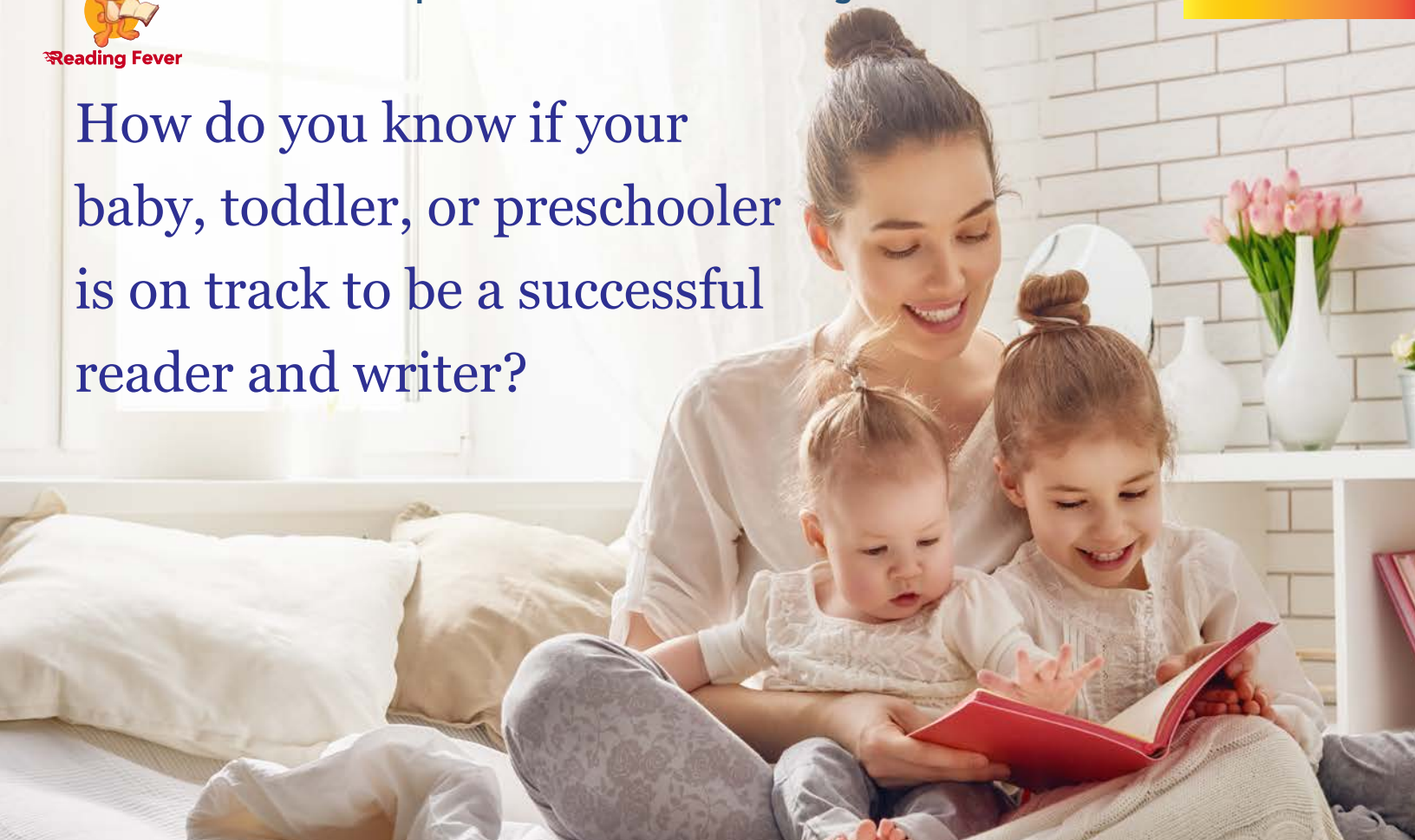
CHECKLIST



DEANNE SPENCER, M.ED.



How do you know if your baby, toddler, or preschooler is on track to be a successful reader and writer?



To do that, you need to know what typically developing children know and are able to do at certain **ages** and **stages**.



Your child's pediatrician has developmental checklists to track height, weight, vision, hearing, etc. which they assess during your visits.

However, if you want to have an idea how your child is progressing on skills that will lead to successful academic development, a developmental checklist will help you know what to watch for, and then you can work on the things that will help your child's skills move along.

These checklists are to help you in two specific areas which are important to pre-reading and writing skills: Sensory and Communication Development.

Sensory skills are developed using the five senses: seeing, hearing, touching, smelling, and tasting. Your child's use of the senses to bring input to the brain develops neural pathways to learning about the world. In the future, these neural pathways will help your child process information - input from reading and listening, and output through speaking and writing. Sensory skills are also important for the brain to coordinate the senses with large and small muscles to do almost any activity- running, dancing, writing, playing the piano, etc.



Communication skills will develop through your child's processing of sensory input and then producing through speech and written language. What a child can think about can be spoken or written. Knowing how to listen, speak, read and write are all forms of communication.



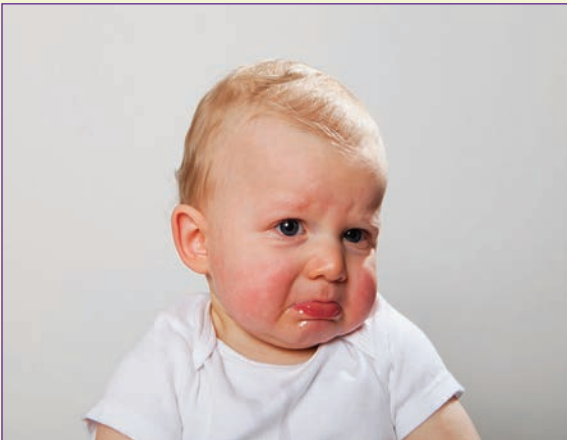
Let's take a deeper dive into what these look like at different age ranges.

Birth - 3 Months

This is a time for a lot of sensory input. Eyesight is developing but is limited to dark and light contrasts and not much color. Hearing is tuned in, but Baby doesn't yet understand what all of those noises are.



CAN BABIES AT THIS AGE COMMUNICATE?



YES! Crying is the red flag of a baby's world. Baby can say, "I'm hungry," "I'm scared," "I'm cold," "I'm uncomfortable" all through crying. You'll see the baby begin to pay attention to movement, shapes, and sounds during this time, and will begin making sense of the world.

Babies

Sensory	Birth - 3 months	Communication	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Tracks movement	<input type="checkbox"/>	Turns head to sounds
		<input type="checkbox"/>	Makes eye contact
		<input type="checkbox"/>	Coos and smiles



Four - 6 Months



The baby at this age is beginning to respond to sight, sound, taste and touch. Baby will track movement, so this is a good opportunity to use some of the strategies in the “Ready to Read” ebook to help the baby start making sense of things and giving appropriate input to help things along.

Now you might get responses such as smiling and cooing instead of only crying. The brain is developing quickly at this stage, so provide your little one with some language, music, soft touch, and visually interesting options.



Babies

Sensory

4 - 6 months

Communication

- Uses hands to touch
- Brings objects to mouth
- Tracks movement

- Notices sounds and responds
- Begins babbling

Seven - 9 Months



At this point, Baby is interested in everything! “How does this taste? What does this feel like? What is that doing? Can I get to that? Are you talking to me? I’d tell you what I think if I had the words . . .” This is when it starts to get fun because Baby can begin to interact.

Talking to, reading to, and singing to your baby will give him or her the idea that the world has a lot of information! You also need to watch carefully because everything goes in the mouth, and any method to get to something is fair game.



Of course, you can use this curiosity to your advantage, so expose Baby to new and interesting things and monitor how and what they do.

Babies

Sensory

7-9 months

Communication

- Turns head to track sounds or objects
- Picks up objects
- Tries to move
- Puts objects in mouth

- Uses more sounds in babbling
- Looks at objects and people
- Recognizes own name
- Imitates some sounds

Ten - 12 Months



More of the same . . . more exploring, more moving, more babbling, more sensory input. This is where you can begin using commands and descriptive language. Of course you'll use full sentences, but the baby will start to pick up on key words you say such as, "Hot," "Stop," "Come," "Bye-bye," etc. and will begin to try to mimic words they recognize.

In terms of what you can capitalize on, describe everything. Identify body parts, name people, label sounds you hear. Look at pictures (or the real thing) and describe them: "This is a cow. It gives milk. It says, "Moo." See the tail?" Or "Let's go on a walk. Look at these leaves. Smell this flower. What does the bark on this tree feel like? It's rough," etc.



Babies

Sensory

10-12 months

Communication

- | | |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Claps hands <input type="checkbox"/> Listens to songs <input type="checkbox"/> Explores everything with mouth <input type="checkbox"/> Crawls to move | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Beginning words - "mama" "dada" <input type="checkbox"/> Responds to directions <input type="checkbox"/> Babbles to communicate <input type="checkbox"/> Uses hand movements to communicate |
|---|---|

Thirteen - 18 Months

Let the child help with dressing, eating, even fixing things to eat. Describe everything you're doing with the sensory descriptions in mind: How does it smell? Taste? Feel? Sound? Look? Encourage talking such as, "Say, "Bye bye," when you're leaving.



Describe what you're doing while you're doing it such as in getting dressed: "Where's your arm? Where does it go? This is a green shirt. Look, there's a turtle on the shirt." Encourage speaking but be patient with your child's responses. Let them get it out on their own time and don't demand perfection. Approximation at this point is okay.

Toddlers & Pre-schoolers

Sensory

13 - 18 months

Communication

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Helps with dressing | <input type="checkbox"/> Can say 5-10 words |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Regular sleep schedule | <input type="checkbox"/> Uses sounds/gestures |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Variety of foods | <input type="checkbox"/> Shows interest in pictures |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Begins to identify body parts |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Understands 50 words |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Nods/shakes head |

Nineteen - 24 Months

You're ramping up the exposure to sensory opportunities such as letting the child use a fork or spoon, playing with a doodle board, using crayons on paper, and trying all kinds of "helper" activities. The more you can let them play using large muscles, and experiment using the hands and fingers, the more strength and coordination they will develop.



Keep talking about things they hear, see, smell, taste and touch. Keep reading stories and describe the pictures. Ask questions and see if the child can answer. The child should be able to say about 50 words individually or in simple sentences by 24 months.

Toddlers & Pre-schoolers

Sensory

19 - 24 months

Communication

- Flips light switches
- Uses writing utensils
- Begins fine motor activity

- Uses 50 words
- Names objects and pictures
- Understands simple pronouns
- Picks up vocabulary words quickly
- Loves listening to stories
- Begins easy prepositions

Twenty Four - 36 Months



The child should be able to do many things independently by now and should be able to communicate using simple sentences.

Children this age love singing songs and can play easy games.



They'll be able to describe a little what they're hearing, seeing, tasting, touching and smelling. Most likely, they'll be ready for potty training about now as they can sense their own bodily functions.

Toddlers & Pre-schoolers

Sensory 24 - 36 months

- Becomes increasingly skilled with large and small motor skills
- Begins to dress self
- Can eat independently

Communication

- Begins using two-word phrases
- Follows two-step directions
- Begins to understand pronouns and possessives
- Uses plurals
- Vocabulary is blowing up!



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Summary:

Developmentally, most children are able to follow the milestones on this checklist. If you are talking to your baby, giving lots of sensory experiences, and reading to your baby or toddler every day, your child will have the foundations in place to start reading and writing. Just remember, you are your child's first teacher and if you take advantage of everyday opportunities to focus on sensory and communication skills, your child will be ready to read!

This Checklist is general only and is not intended to be all-inclusive.

Babies

Sensory

Birth - 3 months

Communication

- Tracks movement
- Turns head to sounds
- Makes eye contact
- Coos and smiles

Sensory

4 - 6 months

Communication

- Uses hands to touch
- Notices sounds and responds
- Brings objects to mouth
- Begins babbling
- Tracks movement

Sensory

7-9 months

Communication

- Turns head to track sounds or objects
- Uses more sounds in babbling
- Picks up objects
- Looks at objects and people
- Tries to move
- Recognizes own name
- Puts objects in mouth
- Imitates some sounds

Sensory

10-12 months

Communication

- Claps hands
- Beginning words - "mama" "dada"
- Listens to songs
- Responds to directions
- Explores everything with mouth
- Babbles to communicate
- Crawls to move
- Uses hand movements to communicate

Toddlers & Pre-schoolers

Sensory **13 - 18 months**

- Helps with dressing
- Regular sleep schedule
- Variety of foods

Communication

- Can say 5-10 words
- Uses sounds/gestures
- Shows interest in pictures
- Begins to identify body parts
- Understands 50 words
- Nods/shakes head

Sensory **19 - 24 months**

- Flips light switches
- Uses writing utensils
- Begins fine motor activity

Communication

- Uses 50 words
- Names objects and pictures
- Understands simple pronouns
- Picks up vocabulary words quickly
- Loves listening to stories
- Begins easy prepositions

Sensory **24 - 36 months**

- Becomes increasingly skilled with large and small motor skills
- Begins to dress self
- Can eat independently

Communication

- Begins using two-word phrases
- Follows two-step directions
- Begins to understand pronouns and possessives
- Uses plurals
- Vocabulary is blowing up!

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