

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

Child Development Program  
Children's Health Services  
in conjunction with GPartners  
Developed by



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



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- Use your Senses - Touch, listen and look at objects e.g. sand, leaves, and toys
- Move about - help your child move, push and pull objects
- Out and About - Go to libraries- talk about books, Visit parks - climb and throw and kick balls
- Talk and Problem Solve - with puzzles
- Explore - use a variety of things for your child to explore and play with e.g. bubbles, pots and pans, play doh, boxes, blocks, bikes and dolls. Your cupboards are full of exciting things!

Ways to play?

**You and your child together:** Get down on their level and enjoy being together.

**Add:** New ideas to guide, support and expand on the play your child is leading.

**Look and listen:** To adjust play to your child's level and to follow their interests.

**Partner:** Be your child's partner in play. Follow their lead and wait for them to take their turn.


**PLAY is the way**  
to stimulate your child's development

## 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 -** Open the brochure to the Red Flag Table (on the flip side)

**Step 2 -** Find the child's age across the top of the table.

**Step 3 -** Read through the list and identify if the child is demonstrating any of the Red Flags  at their age level.

**Step 4 -** If the child is between age levels (e.g. 2 yrs 5 months) check the lower age level for Red Flags (ie. 2 yrs)



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## 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 (1300 366 039).

#### 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.

### Local Child Development Service

Child Development Program

Ph: 3335 8888 Fax: 3335 8869

Please note: Waiting times apply and can be indicated at Intake.

Parents - It is advisable to call your Doctor or Child Health Nurse before calling this number.

# RED FLAG REFERRAL GUIDELINES

	6 MONTHS	9 MONTHS	12 MONTHS	18 MONTHS	2 YEARS	3 YEARS	4 YEARS	5 YEARS	RED FLAGS AT ANY AGE
 <p><b>Social/Emotional</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Does not smile or squeal in response to people</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Not sharing enjoyment with others using eye contact or facial expression</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Does not notice someone new</li> <li>Does not play early turn taking games (e.g. peekaboo, rolling a ball)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lacks interest in playing and interacting with others</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>When playing with toys tends to bang, drop, or throw them rather than use them for their purpose (e.g. cuddle doll, build blocks)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No interest in pretend play or other children</li> <li>Difficulties in noticing and understanding feelings in themselves and others (e.g. happy, sad)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Unwilling/ unable to play cooperatively</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Play is different than their friends</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Not achieving indicated developmental milestones</li> <li>Strong parent concerns</li> </ul>
	<b>L A C K O F O R L I M I T E D E Y E C O N T A C T</b>								
 <p><b>Communication</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Not starting to babble (e.g. adah; oogoo)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No gestures (e.g. pointing, showing, waving)</li> <li>Not using 2 part babble (e.g. gaga, arna)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No babbled phrases that sound like talking</li> <li>No response to familiar words</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No clear words</li> <li>Cannot understand short requests eg. 'Where is the ball?'</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Does not have at least 50 words</li> <li>Not putting words together eg. 'push car'</li> <li>Most of what is said is not easily understood</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Speech difficult to understand</li> <li>Not using simple sentences e.g. big car go</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Speech difficult to understand</li> <li>Unable to follow directions with 2 steps</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Difficulty telling a parent what is wrong</li> <li>Cannot answer questions in a simple conversation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Significant loss of skills</li> <li>Lack of response to sound or visual stimuli</li> </ul>
	 <p><b>Fine Motor and Cognition</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Not reaching for and holding (grasping) toys</li> <li>Hands frequently clenched</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Unable to hold and/or release toys</li> <li>Cannot move toy from one hand to another</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Majority of nutrition still liquid/puree</li> <li>Cannot chew solid food</li> <li>Unable to pick up small items using index finger and thumb</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Not holding or scribbling with a crayon</li> <li>Does not attempt to tower blocks</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No interest in self care skills eg. feeding, dressing</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Difficulty helping with self care skills (e.g. feeding, dressing)</li> <li>Difficulty manipulating small objects e.g. threading beads</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Not toilet trained by day</li> <li>Unable to draw lines and circles</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Concerns from teacher about school readiness</li> <li>Not independent with eating and dressing</li> <li>Cannot draw simple pictures (e.g. stick person)</li> </ul>
 <p><b>Gross Motor</b></p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Not rolling</li> <li>Not holding head and shoulders up when on tummy</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Not sitting without support</li> <li>Not moving eg. creeping or crawling motion</li> <li>Does not take weight well on legs when held by an adult</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Not crawling or bottom shuffling</li> <li>Not pulling to stand</li> <li>Not standing holding on to furniture</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Not attempting to walk without support</li> <li>Not standing alone</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Unable to run</li> <li>Unable to use stairs holding on</li> <li>Unable to throw a ball</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Not running well</li> <li>Cannot walk up and down stairs</li> <li>Cannot kick or throw a ball</li> <li>Cannot jump with 2 feet together</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cannot pedal a tricycle</li> <li>Cannot catch, throw or kick a ball</li> <li>Cannot balance on well standing on one leg</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Awkward when walking, running, climbing and using stairs</li> <li>Ball skills are very different to their peers</li> <li>Unable to hop 5 times on each foot</li> </ul>

HMMU Feb'10 1132\_Franklin\_JK.ai

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