

Developmental Continuum of Skills

Individual children develop at a unique pace.			Infant		Toddler		Preschool		Primary		
Skill / Skill Code	Sub-skill / Definition	Benchmark 1	Benchmark 2	Benchmark 3	Benchmark 4	Benchmark 5	Benchmark 6	Benchmark 7	Benchmark 8		
 Social & Emotional Development	SED 1 Self-Awareness	SED 1a Knows self and expresses confidence	Responds to name by cooing, smiling or turning head toward person talking. Explores hands and feet.	Responds to name and interacts with self in mirror. Recognizes self as being separate from others.	Names self and names basic body parts.	Identifies characteristics of self.	Describes thoughts and characteristics of self and expresses confidence in own abilities.	Identifies own strengths and personal talents.	Apply strengths to accomplish a task and exhibits pride in personal accomplishments.	Reflects and describes strengths and areas of growth. Begins to have and apply a growth mindset.	
		SED 1b Expresses needs and preferences	Vocalizes or moves to express needs.	Seeks out or responds to favorite or preferred toys, objects or people.	Expresses likes and dislikes.	When given two to three options, chooses their most desired option.	Describes and compares preferences of self and others.	Expresses and advocates for one's needs or personal preferences.	Understands others might have different needs and preferences than self.	Expresses and advocates ways for self and others to both participate according to unique preferences and to obtain differing wants.	
		SED 1c Completes tasks independently	Reaches for a familiar object or toy.	Attempts to do a familiar task or explore objects independently.	Completes familiar tasks or activities independently. May still need adult support on occasion.	Expresses interest in planning or trying new or complex tasks and activities with help.	Takes risks and pushes self to accomplish new tasks independently.	Revisits a familiar task or activity with a different approach.	Revisits and plans a familiar task and describes ways to improve results.	Predicts how self and others might be able to perform in a task and describes and plans what is needed to improve.	
		SED 1d Identifies emotions	Makes facial expressions or vocalizations to express engagement, contentment, stress or discomfort.	Shows a range of emotions with facial expressions and gestures.	Recognizes and names a few personal feelings.	Identifies and describes personal feelings.	Recognizes that feelings can change.	Identifies complex feelings and recognizes that they can have more than one feeling at the same time.	Identifies past, current and future feelings and explains when they might experience different feelings.	Anticipates an emotional response that may result from a given situation.	
	SED 2 Self-Regulation	SED 2a Manages feelings and behavior	Calms with support from caregiver.	Seeks out a familiar adult, item or behavior to provide comfort when upset or in a new situation.	Begins to use strategies to regulate emotions or behavior with support from familiar adult.	Uses a variety of strategies to regulate emotions or behavior. May still need adult prompting on occasion.	Independently chooses and uses a variety of strategies to regulate emotions or behavior.	Describes and demonstrates appropriate responses to different emotions and behaviors.	Describes strategies to calm oneself in new or stressful situations.	Applies strategies for managing own emotions and behaviors.	
		SED 2b Follows routines and transitions	Reacts to changes in tone of voice or expression.	Participates in familiar routines and transitions with support.	Recognizes a familiar activity or routine and redirects to a new activity with support.	Anticipates what comes next within a daily routine. Recognizes when the typical routine is not followed and identifies the change.	Follows daily routines. With support, negotiates ways to handle new routines or transitions.	Transitions from one activity to the next and helps others through the transition.	Describes strategies to adjust and calm oneself in new or stressful situations.	Adapts to new situations or routines quickly and with minimal stress.	
		SED 3 Social Relationships	SED 3a Develops relationships with adults	Recognizes, interacts with and responds to primary caregivers.	Stays close to and interacts with familiar adults for comfort and support.	Engages in interactions with new adults, but returns to the primary caregivers for comfort and support.	Engages in positive back-and-forth interactions with new or familiar adults.	Initiates interactions and uses prosocial behavior skills in back-and-forth exchanges with adults.	Identifies trusted adults in the community and describes when to seek help.	Describes characteristics of trusted adults and seeks help when needed.	Describes how trusted adults can provide support in various settings and how to build positive relationships.
			SED 3b Develops relationships with peers	Notifies, responds to and looks at peers.	Engages in simple interactions with peers.	Shows interest in interacting with peers and may demonstrate preference for specific peers.	Engages in interactions with peers and has preferred friends that they play with consistently.	Demonstrates connection with others and identifies similar interests as friends.	Describes personal friendships and meaningful relationships.	Describes characteristics of positive friendships and how to build positive relationships.	Describes different types of relationships. Takes care of self, others and considers the needs of others.
	SED 4 Problem-Solving	SED 3c Participates cooperatively in groups	Engages in simple social interactions, such as games like peek-a-boo.	Mimics actions of others.	Joins a group and participates in an activity when asked.	With support from an adult, initiates play with peers and uses prosocial behavior skills such as sharing, waiting and taking turns. May still need adult prompting on occasion.	Initiates play with peers and uses prosocial behavior skills such as sharing, waiting and taking turns. May still need adult prompting on occasion.	Identifies roles of self and others during group tasks or activities. Offers to help others.	Fulfills personal roles and responsibilities when working in a group.	Begins to use active listening and inclusion of other's ideas to support collaboration in a group setting.	
		SED 3d Identifies and respects emotions of others	Adjusts behavior according to emotional or facial response of a familiar person.	Explores different facial expressions, such as in pictures.	Recognizes the emotions of others and demonstrates concern for others.	Explains how and why someone may be feeling a certain emotion.	Identifies complex feelings of others and responds accordingly.	Explains how self and others may feel similar or different in a variety of situations and explains why.	Seeks to understand and support others' feelings.	Demonstrates respect for others who have differing feelings and needs. Shows empathy to others.	
		SED 4a Solves problems	Uses simple repeated actions or movements to solve a problem.	Explores how things work using repeated trial and error to solve a problem.	Recognizes a problem and asks for adult help to solve the problem.	Suggests and explores possible solutions to a problem with support from an adult.	Uses previous knowledge to determine which solution to try first when solving a problem.	Eliminates possible solutions to a problem by thinking through their potential results and consequences.	Explains the sequence of their problem solving strategy.	Solves problems by connecting personal experiences to possible solutions.	
		SED 4b Responsible Decision-Making	Begins to recognize choices, such as reaching for a toy when multiple options are available.	Responds to simple guidance on safe and kind choices.	Identifies basic consequences of actions, such as "If I throw my toy, it might break".	With adult support, lists choices or solutions before making a decision.	Makes independent choices based on rules and fairness.	Considers others' feelings when making decisions.	Evaluates possible solutions and their consequences before acting.	Demonstrates responsible decision-making by applying past experiences to new situations.	
 Approaches to Learning	ATL 1 Attention & Persistence	ATL 1a Attends	Focuses for a short time on a person, sound or thing.	Attends to what others are looking at or pointing to.	Focuses on an engaging activity for a short period of time with adult reminders.	Focuses on an engaging activity for a short period of time independently.	Sustains focus for at least five minutes, even if there are distractions.	Sustains focus for at least ten minutes, even if there are distractions.	Sustains focus for at least thirty minutes, even if there are distractions.	Sustains focus for forty-five minutes, even if there are distractions.	
		ATL 1b Persists	Engages in a continued interaction or activity with a familiar object or adult.	Repeats actions to gain a result.	Asserts a desire to start or end a preferred activity. Asks for help as needed.	Practices or repeats an activity until successful. Expresses delight over a successful project.	Begins to persist on a challenging activity with teacher support.	Persists on a challenging activity independently.	With adult support, plans steps to pursue a challenging activity or idea and implements it with persistence.	Plans steps to pursue an idea and implements it with persistence independently.	
	ATL 2 Flexibility & Play	ATL 2a Shows flexibility	Shifts attention from one person or thing to another.	Shifts attention from one task to another with prompting and adult support.	With adult support, demonstrates ability to shift ideas, plans or imagination while working on a simple task or activity.	With adult support, demonstrates ability to shift ideas, plans or imagination while participating in complex tasks or role-play scenarios.	Demonstrates ability to shift ideas, plans or imagination while completing complex tasks or role-play scenarios independently.	Demonstrates ability to shift ideas, plans or imagination while completing complex tasks or games independently.	Imagines new ways to approach a task or discover information when obstacles are present.	Demonstrates ability to fluently shift approaches within complex tasks independently.	
		ATL 2b Engages in play	Explores and manipulates materials.	Entertains and plays by themselves without adult or child involvement.	Watches others play and plays side by side with another person.	Joins a group and participates in group play. May have different purposes of play.	Engages in cooperative play by sharing, taking turns and offering to help others. Identifies roles of self and others during tasks and play.	Engages in social play and creates goals and scenarios that involve creative problem-solving.	With adult support, plays games or activities with complex rules.	Plays games or activities with others that have complex rules. May create own rules to games.	
 Physical Development	PD 1 Gross Motor	PD 1a Builds strength, coordination and balance of large muscles	Rolls, crawls, sits independently and pulls self into a standing position. Kicks or grabs from a seated or lying position.	Walks and climbs. Carries, drags, kicks and tosses objects.	Runs. Balances on a wide beam. Throws objects in an intended direction. Catches objects against body.	Balances and hops on one foot. Throws both overhead and underhand. Catches or kicks moving objects.	Hops from one foot to the other. Begins to skip. Coordinates multiple movements in simple sequences.	Changes direction and speed of movement.	Balances on a variety of objects. Kicks or strikes moving objects with aim and accuracy. Leaps. Steps at a boundary.	Uses conditioning methods to strengthen muscles and increase endurance. Coordinates multiple complex movements in continuous play.	
	PD 2 Fine Motor	PD 2a Builds strength and coordination of small movements	Reaches for objects in sight and uses hands or feet to make contact with an object.	Purposefully grasps objects with finger and thumb. Uses hands to accomplish tasks, such as feeding self.	Opens, closes, stacks, twists and pulls with one or both hands.	Uses hands and fingers to manipulate objects, such as stringing large beads or snipping with scissors.	Manipulates objects through tasks like buttoning, zipping, buckling, lacing and following a straight line when cutting and copying drawings.	Manipulates objects through tasks like following an outline with scissors, tying shoes and dressing self.	Threads small beads. Stacks small objects. Uses scissors to cut more challenging materials, such as fabric or cardboard.	Manipulates objects of all sizes with speed and accuracy.	
	PD 3 Safety	PD 3a Demonstrates safe practices	Reacts to unexpected noises, lights or sights.	Responds to possible dangers in environment and avoids them when prompted.	Follows simple safety rules and avoids danger.	Follows safety rules and helps others follow rules. Identifies dangerous situations and seeks help.	Follows safety rules and reminds others to follow them.	Describes reasons for safety rules and reminds others of situations with little prompting.	Identifies emergency situations and how to behave accordingly. Describes how to get help.	Takes appropriate initiative in dangerous and emergency situations.	
	PD 4 Personal Care	PD 4a Implements self-care routines including rest, toileting, handwashing, exercise and dressing	Cries or moves body when physical needs are not met.	Begins to participate in self-care activities and recognizes the difference between dirty and clean.	With help, participates in self-care routines.	Recognizes personal needs and how to get them met and implements with adult support.	Meets most personal and hygiene needs when prompted by an adult.	Maintains personal needs and proper hygiene with occasional reminders.	Independently maintains personal and hygiene needs.	Explains how to manage health and role of exercise and rest in self and others.	
		PD 4b Understands bodily functions	Explores body parts, such as hands and feet.	Points to body parts when prompted.	Identifies basic body parts.	Describes the function of basic body parts. Can locate body part.	Explains how germs spread and describes simple strategies for preventing the spread.	When feeling sick, describes symptoms. Describes some contagious diseases.	Identifies basic organs.	Describes the functions of basic organs.	
	PD 5 Nutrition	PD 5a Follows healthy nutrition routines	Cries when hungry.	Communicates the need to eat and feeds self some finger foods.	Begins to identify familiar foods, anticipates the need to eat and feeds self with spoon or other utensil.	Begins to identify familiar foods, anticipates the need to eat and feeds self with spoon or other utensil.	Identifies food groups, sorts food and identifies food that is nutritious.	Describes how nutritious food helps the body grow and develop and helps to prepare food.	Describes what happens after the consumption of food.	Prepares simple food for self.	
 Language & Literacy Development	LLD 1 Listening	LLD 1a Understands and interprets language	Turns head toward the person speaking.	Shows understanding of a variety of single familiar words, such as by pointing at named objects, people or body parts.	Shows understanding of a wide variety of phrases and sentences.	Listens, then responds appropriately.	Listens and understands inferred requests.	Shows understanding of a series of complex statements that explain how or why.	Shows understanding about key details from information or stories shared verbally.	Listens to gather new information and demonstrates understanding.	
		LLD 1b Follows directions	Responds to speaking in the environment and imitates actions.	With prompts and gestures, follows a one-step direction.	Follows related two-step directions given verbally.	Follows unrelated two-step directions given verbally.	With prompting, follows multi-step directions given verbally.	Follows multi-step directions given verbally.	Remembers and follows previous rules or directions given verbally.	Responds to verbal statements that have implied directions or requests.	
		LLD 2 Communication	LLD 2a Uses language to express information and ask/answer questions	Uses vocalizations and gestures to communicate.	Uses a few words, signs or word-like sounds to communicate.	Communicates needs, desires and ideas or asks simple questions.	Uses descriptions and observations to communicate information and answer questions, or asks more complex questions.	Talks about activities or tells stories. Answers "who," "what," "when," "why" and "how" questions.	Explains personal thoughts about familiar people, places and events.	Discusses ideas and feelings about a wide range of age-appropriate topics.	Uses expression, tone and pacing to reinforce the meaning of what they are communicating.
			LLD 2b Uses conversational skills	Responds with babbles or sounds with prompting.	Responds to one exchange, but is not on topic.	Responds on topic for one exchange.	Stays on topic for two to three exchanges.	Engages in conversations through multiple exchanges.	Initiates conversation with adults and peers.	Demonstrate understanding of conversation norms, such as listening, taking turns talking, distance between talkers and body orientation.	Asks for clarification about information or topics that occur during a conversation.
	LLD 2 Communication	LLD 2c Uses sentence structure	Mimics single sounds.	Communicates using one- to two-word sentences.	Communicates using two- to four-word sentences.	Communicates in sentences. May not always follow grammatical rules.	Communicates in simple, complete sentences.	Uses question words in speech. Speaks audibly. Makes nouns plural by adding /s/. Uses common prepositions.	Uses many types of sentences, including simple and compound. Uses verb tense to express past, present and future.	Uses common irregular plural nouns and conjugated verbs.	
		LLD 2d Uses and expands vocabulary	Uses sounds and gestures to communicate.	Repeats words heard frequently in environment.	Identifies familiar people, places and objects. Asks what a specific person or object is called.	Describes familiar people, places and objects. Asks additional words for new ways to describe.	Includes new and technical words in everyday conversations. Asks what unfamiliar words mean.	Uses new or technical words learned in conversations or through reading. Compares words and their meanings.	Identifies words whose meaning are similar. Determines the meaning of unknown words from context or root word.	Explains the difference between closely related words. Uses multiple strategies to determine and learn the meaning of unfamiliar words.	
	LLD 3 Phonological Awareness	LLD 3a Rhyme	Listens to and moves to rhyming songs.	Repeats the last word in familiar rhymes when prompted.	Suggests a missing rhyming word within a poem or song.	Identifies when two words rhyme.	Produces rhyming words when given a word.	Rhymes with real and nonsensical words.	Independently identifies and repeats rhyming word from a poem or song.	Manipulates, blends, substitutes and deletes large units of sound.	
		LLD 3b Hears Large Units of Sound	Babbles and vocalizes using sound, volume and inflection.	Repeats words or short sentences.	Shows awareness of separate words in spoken language.	Blends large units of sound, such as compound words, syllables or onset-rime.	Segments large units of sound, such as compound words, syllables or onset-rime.	Deletes large units of sound.	Substitutes large units of sound.	Manipulates, blends, substitutes and deletes large units of sound.	
	LLD 4 Alphabetic Knowledge	LLD 3c Hears Small Units of Sound	Cooes and makes sounds such as "coo" and "ah."	Imitates or repeats sounds and tones.	Engages in word and sound play through songs and games.	Identifies and produces words that have the same beginning sound.	Identifies the end sound of a word and blends two-phoneme words.	Identifies medial sound of a word and blends CVC (consonant-vowel-consonant) words.	Decodes words with long and short vowel sounds, digraphs and blends with increasing automaticity.	Applies phonics strategies and word analysis skills to decode words, such as irregular high-frequency and unfamiliar words with increasing automaticity.	
		LLD 4d Identifies letters, makes letter-sound connections and decodes words	Explores books and toys with letters and related images.	Participates in letter songs and activities.	Recognizes the first letter and letter sound in their name.	Identifies five to ten upper- and lowercase letters and letter sounds.	Identifies eleven to twenty upper- and lowercase letters and letter sounds.	Identifies all upper- and lowercase letters and letter sounds.	Decodes words with long and short vowel sounds, digraphs and blends with increasing automaticity.	Applies phonics strategies and word analysis skills to decode words, such as irregular high-frequency and unfamiliar words with increasing automaticity.	
LLD 5 Concepts of Print	LLD 5a Uses print concepts and explores books and other text	Opens and closes books, looks at them and points to pictures.	Recognizes if pictures are right-side up. Turns pages from the front to the back of the book.	Distinguishes between pictures and words. Identifies the front and back cover.	Distinguishes between letters and words. Indicates where to start reading on a page.	Identifies some punctuation and recognizes spaces between words.	Recognizes common types of text, such as poems, storybooks or fact books. Names author and illustrator. Identifies punctuation.	Explains the difference between books that tell stories and those that give information.	Identifies and uses text features to find information in texts.		
	LLD 6 Reading Comprehension	LLD 6a Responds to text	Interacts by reaching for or patting when a book is read.	Chooses and holds a book and looks intently at each page.	Talks about pictures and ideas in familiar stories.	Anticipates what comes next in familiar stories. Expresses likes or dislikes within the story.	Relates to the characters or events of the story and shares a similar experience or object from their own life.	With support, compares similarities between two texts.	Makes many text-to-text, text-to-self and text-to-real-world connections. Compares similarities and differences between texts.	Evaluates texts based on content, personal experience and knowledge of the world. Compares the main points of two texts.	
		LLD 6b Retells, asks and answers questions about a text or story	Looks at and listens to books read aloud by an adult.	Identifies the characters and setting in a story.	Retells portions of a story using pictures, gestures or props.	Retells the characters and setting in a story.	With prompting, answers simple questions about the characters, setting and events in a story and retells a story.	Asks and answers questions about the characters, setting and events in a story and retells the events of a story in sequence.	Makes inferences about character goals or causal connections in a story, and retells stories in sequence using more details.	Summarizes texts and their messages. Describes the points of view of various characters.	
LLD 7 Writing	LLD 7a Emergent Writing	With adult support, makes a mark with a writing tool or other material.	Makes random marks or draws with writing tools.	Marks or scribbles. Begins to make letter-like forms.	Writes letter-like forms or mock letters and letter strings from left to right.	Writes first name and some letters. Begins to use inventive spelling. Letters may be out of order or backward.	Writes first name and last name and upper- and lowercase letters appropriately. Writes short phrases with more accuracy.	Writes simple sentences. Begins to use conventional spelling.	Writes simple and compound sentences. Uses punctuation. Checks and corrects spelling.		
	LLD 7b Uses writing to represent meaning	Explores various tools used to write.	Makes handprints or fingerprints with adults.	Scribbles or draws marks as a representation of an object or person.	Uses a combination of drawing, dictating and writing to record an event or idea.	Uses a combination of drawing, dictating and writing to record an event or idea.	Draws and writes to express ideas or share an opinion.	Writes to give information about a topic, including some facts. Provides a concluding statement.	Writes ideas or groups information in logical order. Uses descriptive words in writing.		
 Mathematics	M 1 Number Sense	M 1a Verbally counts numbers	Listens to counting songs and chants.	Says or sings random numbers, may be out of order.	Verbally counts to five.	Verbally counts to ten.	Verbally counts to twenty.	Verbally counts to 100 by ones and tens. Counts forward from a given number.	Verbally counts in sequence to 120 from a given number.	Verbally counts by fives, tens and hundreds to 1000.	
		M 1b Identifies and writes numerals	Sees numbers in everyday context.	Begins to identify numbers. Identifies the numeral 1.	Identifies numerals up to five.	Identifies numerals up to ten and understands the numeral reflects the quantity of objects. Writes numerals up to five.	Identifies numerals up to twenty and understands the numeral reflects the quantity of objects. Writes numerals up to ten.	Identifies numerals up to fifty. Writes numerals up to twenty.	Identifies numerals to 100 and understands place value for two- to three-digit numbers.	Identifies and writes numerals to 1000. Understands place value for three- to four-digit numbers.	
		M 1c Counting one-to-one, and composing and decomposing numbers	Points to objects.	Uses one-to-one correspondence to match objects or pictures.	Points to one object at a time while counting up to five.	Counts up to ten objects and indicates that the last number counted tells how many objects were counted.	Count up to twenty objects and indicates that the last number counted tells how many objects were counted.	Understands that a whole number is greater than its parts and can identify the number combinations that add up to five with counting.	Identifies the number combinations that add up to five.	Decomposes numbers less than or equal to ten in more than one way.	
		M 1d Number Quantities and Comparison	Looks for an object that is taken out of sight.	Recognizes amounts up to two without counting.	Recognizes amounts up to three without counting.	Recognizes amounts up to five without counting. Creates and counts groups of up to five objects and identifies which group has more, less or if they are equal.	Creates and counts groups of up to five objects and recognizes which group has more, even if the objects in the larger group are smaller.	Creates and counts groups of up to ten objects and recognizes which group has more, less or if they are equal.	Uses the concept of a number line to compare which numbers are closer to each other.	Uses place value to compare numbers.	
		M 1e Addition and Subtraction	Watches an adult add or take away toys.	Adds to and removes objects from a group as prompted.	Adds and subtracts by adding to or removing objects and recounting to find the total up to five.	Adds and subtracts by adding to or removing objects and recounting to find the total up to five.	Adds and subtracts by adding to or removing objects and recounting to find the total up to ten.	Adds and subtracts by counting on or counting up to for totals up to ten.	Uses addition and subtraction strategies to solve problems with totals up to twenty.	Solves for the unknown in one- and two-step addition or subtraction word problems. Explains problem-solving strategies.	
	M 2 Spatial Awareness	M 2a Understands how objects move in space	Tries to put one object inside another.	Purposefully manipulates objects, such as turning or spinning them, to discover how three pieces can move or fit into a space.	Recognizes objects that are upside-down and turns them right-side up. Puts together three pieces to create a whole object.	Moves objects to assemble a whole, such as simple puzzles with prompting.	Moves objects to assemble a whole, such as simple puzzles. May take several attempts to determine the correct orientation.	Identifies and corrects the orientation of familiar objects and symbols. Assembles a puzzle without using a guide.	Creates complex pictures or objects by putting together or taking apart shapes.	Determines when shapes have been slid, turned or flipped and describes the translation.	
M 2b Determines object location		Participates as caregiver raises arms or legs and says up/down	Follows simple positional directions such as on/off, over/under and up/down.	Finds or places objects next to, between, in front of or behind self.	When prompted, places objects next to, between, in front of or behind objects not related to self.	Explains the location of an object in relation to another object.	Makes simple maps or models to represent the location of objects.	Gives and follows positional instructions to find objects.	Uses representations, coordinates systems and maps to identify locations or objects or places.		
M 3 Shapes	M 3a Identifies shapes and their characteristics	Manipulates objects that are a variety of shapes.	Matches two identical shapes.	Identifies one to three two-dimensional shapes.	Identifies four to six two-dimensional shapes.	Identifies shapes and uses					