

Early years team referral - advice

In September 2021 the early years foundation stage reforms became statutory. Many schools and settings have reflected on their assessment systems and adapted them to suit their circumstances. Where children are not able to access a curriculum that is typical for their age, further 'fine-graded' assessment may be helpful to monitor need and development. This has resulted in a range of 'band' descriptors used to describe a child's typical attainment.

A request for involvement of the Early Years Team will consider the developmental stage of the child. This guidance aims to support a common language to summarise a child's stage of development. Each setting will use tools appropriate for them, and their cohort, as part of their assessment. We have listed a set of common developmental 'bandings' to summarise a child's skill level in age bands (0-6 months, 6-12 months etc). They are highlighted in grey in the charts below with links to the main EYFS tools for assessment.

Development typical of a child age 0-5y	Development Matters 2020	Development Matters pre-2020	Birth to Five Matters 2020	Early Support
0-6mths	Birth to 3	0-11mths	Range 1	Step 1-3
6-12mths	Birth to 3	0-11mths	Range 1	Step 3-5
12-18mths	Birth to 3	8-20mths	Range 2	Step 5-7
18-24mths	Birth to 3	16-26mths	Range 3	Step 7-9
24-36mths (2-3yrs)	Birth to 3	22-36mths	Range 4	Step 9-12
36-48mths (3-4yrs)	3 & 4 year old	30-50mths	Range 5	Step 11-13
48-60mths (4-5yrs)	Reception	40-60mths	Range 5-6	Step 13-14
EYFSP	ELG			

A referrer needs to demonstrate the child’s levels. You may be asked for evidence to support these levels.

Example.

Jay is age 22 months and working in a developmental age range typical for a child who is 0-6 months in personal social and emotional, 0-6 months in communication and language, 1½ -2 years in physical development, 6-12 months in play and 6-12 months in independence

Child development summary <i>(completed by referrer and supported by other professionals involved where possible)</i>					
Child development summary					
Child’s chronological age: ...22 months					
Please indicate a best fit judgement [x] for the child’s skills’ level in each area based on your observations as represented by the 6 months’ age banding. This will show a child’s area of difficulty and the significance of the developmental delay.					
3 to 3 ½ yrs					
2 ½ to 3 yrs					
2 to 2 ½ yrs					
1 ½ to 2 yrs			x		
1 to 1 ½ yrs					
6 to 12 mths				x	x
0 to 6 mths	x	x			
Represents ‘typical’ development level milestones	Personal, social and emotional	Communication and language	Physical development	Play	Independence

Children will be accepted for consideration by the Early Years Team if they are:

- significantly delayed in their development in three or more areas
- parent/carers have signed the Early Years Team consent form
- setting staff can evidence that they have started the graduated response.(e.g. a support plan is in place)

A practitioner will then arrange further discussions/observations/meetings to gather more information as required.