

'CRUCIAL SKILLS' IN CHILD DEVELOPMENT - EARLY CHILDHOOD



	G = Great	F = Fearless	C = Clinicians	C = Create	S = Solutions
Age	Gross Motor	Fine Motor	Communication	Cognitive	Social-Emotional
2 years	Runs; throws ball	Digital pronate grasp on crayon Inserts shapes Self-feeds (using spoon to scoop & bring to mouth); helps dress	Speaks 2-word phrases Can chew and swallow most foods (but not yet foods with choking hazards) Enjoys participating in family mealtimes	Imitates play they saw parent doing on a prior day Simple pretend play Chooses between 2 items	Gets parent to help with problem Likes to please Tries to re-initiate people games Parallel play with peers
2.5 years	Jumps Kicks large ball	Stacks 6 cubes Uses spoon with minimal spilling Lifts open cup securely with 2 hands Removes socks & shoes	Reports events from today (their point may not be understood by their listener) (e.g. 'What did you have for breakfast? 'Where's your brother?') Asks and answers 'what,' 'where,' 'who' questions	Matches shapes In pretend play, assigns imaginary properties and makes a 2-3 action sequence	Shares with peers when prompted Indicates need to be changed (bowel)
3 years	Stands on 1 foot	Starts to use scissors Does 3–4-piece jigsaw puzzle Sees to thread beads Uses fork well to stab & scoop Removes shirt & pants	Follows 2-step directions Asks 'why' questions Speaks 3- to 4-word sentences Enjoys eating several foods 4-6 Meals/snacks daily	Object constancy (e.g. keeps playing after parent leaves the room, trusting they will return) Sorts objects Recognizes routine rules	Shares emotions Back & forth play with peers Does pretend role play and toys 'get into character' Indicates need to be changed (bladder)
4 years	Walks up & down stairs alternating feet, without support	Copies I & — lines Lifts open cup securely with 1 hand Dresses shirt & pants	Makes back & forth conversation Follows 3 basic directions in the sequence given Reports events from past 2 weeks (and their main point is understood) (e.g. 'How did you get your scrape?') Hears for speech 50%+ understood	Theory of mind Remembers/ anticipates the daily routine	Self-calms or seeks parent to help calm them when upset by a problem Signals or takes self to void
5 years	Hops on 1 foot; sees to catch large ball	Mature pencil grasp; self-feeds (using chopsticks, with help from parent) Cuts straight line with scissors	Talks for many purposes Hears for speech 75%+ understood Now chews firm foods proficiently	Counts objects to 6 Concentrates for 15 minutes	When calm, with parent help identifies problem & their feeling Elaborate imaginary play with peers

June 2025

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Acknowledgements (First Six Years and School Age): Glenrose Rehabilitation Hospital colleagues in Audiology, Language Speech and Hearing Intervention Program, Pediatric Feeding/Swallowing Service, Knowledge Resource Service, Occupational Therapy, Psychology, and Speech-Language Pathology; Glenrose Rehabilitation Hospital colleague Wendy Shennan; University of Alberta colleagues Patty Belton, Miranda Holliday, and Monika Igali; University of Alberta and national colleagues in Developmental Pediatrics, Education, Family Medicine, General Pediatrics, Infant/Child Mental Health, Northern Neonatal Follow-up Program, Pediatric Hospital Medicine, Pediatric Neurology, Practitioner Nursing, and Psychology