






Red Flags Early Identification Guide

Area	6 months	9 months	12 months	18 months	2 years	3 years	4 years	5 years	Red flags at any age
 <p>Social emotional</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Does not smile or interact with people 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not sharing enjoyment with others using eye contact or facial expression 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Does not notice someone new Does not play early turn-taking games (e.g. peekaboo, rolling a ball) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lacks interest in playing and interacting with others 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> When playing with toys tends to bang, drop or throw them rather than use them for their purpose (e.g. cuddle dolls, build blocks) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No interest in pretend play or interacting with other children Difficulty noticing and understanding feelings in themselves and others (e.g. happy, sad) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unwilling or unable to play cooperatively 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Play is different than their friends 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strong parental concerns Significant loss of skills Lack of response to sound or visual stimuli Poor interaction with adults or other children Lack of, or limited eye contact Differences between right and left sides of body in strength, movement or tone Marked low tone (floppy) or high tone (stiff and tense) and significantly impacting on development and functional motor skills 
 <p>Communication</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not starting to babble (e.g. aahh; oohh) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not using gestures (e.g. pointing, showing, waving) Not using two part babble (e.g. bubu, dada) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No babbled phrases that sound like talking No response to familiar words (e.g. bottle, daddy) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No clear words Not able to understand short requests (e.g. 'Where is the ball?') 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not learning new words Not putting words together (e.g. 'push car') 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Speech difficult for familiar people to understand Not using simple sentences (e.g. 'Big car go') 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Speech difficult to understand Not able to follow directions with two steps (e.g. 'Put your bag away and then go play') 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Difficulty telling a parent what is wrong Not able to answer questions in a simple conversation (e.g. 'What's your name? Who is your family? What do you like to watch on TV?') 	
 <p>Cognition, fine motor and self care</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not reaching for and holding (grasping) toys Hands frequently clenched Does not explore objects with hands, eyes and mouth Does not bring hands together at midline 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Does not hold objects Does not 'give' objects on request Cannot move toy from one hand to another 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Does not feed self finger foods or hold own bottle/cup Unable to pick up small items using index finger and thumb 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Does not scribble with a crayon Does not attempt to stack blocks after demonstration 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Does not attempt to feed self using a spoon and/or help with dressing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Does not attempt everyday self care skills (such as feeding or dressing) Difficulty in manipulating small objects (e.g. threading beads) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not toilet trained by day Not able to draw lines and circles 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Concerns from teacher about school readiness Not able to independently complete everyday routines such as feeding and dressing Not able to draw simple pictures (e.g. stick person) 	
 <p>Gross motor</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not holding head and shoulders up with good control when lying on tummy Not holding head with control in supported sitting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not rolling Not sitting independently/ without support Not moving (e.g. creeping, crawling) Not taking weight on legs when held in standing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No form of independent mobility (e.g. crawling, commando crawling, bottom shuffle) Not pulling to stand independently and holding on for support 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not standing independently Not attempting to walk without support 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not able to walk independently Not able to walk up and down stairs holding on 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not able to walk up and down stairs independently Not able to run or jump 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not able to walk, run, climb, jump and use stairs confidently Not able to catch, throw or kick a ball 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not able to walk, run, climb, jump and use stairs confidently Not able to hop five times on one leg and stand on one leg for five seconds 	

Updated July 2016

Red Flags Early Identification Guide © State of Queensland (Queensland Health)