

How to “Interview” a Baby

What To Look For When Providing A Quality Assessment of An Infant

- 1. The infant must be observed awake. It is never sufficient to observe a sleeping infant.**
- 2. Developmental Milestones:**
 - Is the infant on target with his/her developmental milestones?
- 3. Physical Appearance:**
 - Physical condition of the baby: Skin, eyes, *etc.*
 - Is the infant of average size for his/her age?
 - Does the baby move all four limbs?
 - How alert is the baby?
 - Any obvious disabilities?
 - How does the baby smell?
 - Does the baby have a crib?
 - Is the sleeping area clean and safe?
 - Does the baby have appropriate formula/diapers/clothing?
 - Are his/her clothes clean?
- 4. Interaction Between Baby, Parent, and Others in the Home:**
 - Does the parent/others respond to the baby’s interactions?
 - How does the baby respond to the parent?
 - Do the parent and the baby look at each other?
 - Does the baby appear comforted when the parent picks him/her up?
 - Does the parent/others make positive statements about the baby?
 - Does the parent smile when speaking about the baby?
 - Does the baby cry or smile, or laugh?
 - How does the parent respond to the cries?
 - Can the parent differentiate between the types and tones of cries and recognize what each cry expresses?
 - Does the baby react to toys and other objects?
 - Is he/she socially responsive?
 - Does the baby have a regular eating and sleeping schedule?

All children age 0 – 3 who are the subject of an indicated child protective report MUST be referred to Early Intervention. To refer a child for Early Intervention, call: 1-800-577-BABY (2229) or 311

Early Intervention Red Flags For Children Age 0 - 3

1. Physical:

- Child does not use both sides of body equally, or child favors one side.
- Child is awkward and trips a lot.
- Child seems unable to hold onto things past 12 months.
- Child does not walk confidently past 18 months.

2. Speech:

- Shows no signs of cooing or babbling by 7 months.
- Doesn't have a few single words by 12 months.
- Not verbalizing "dat" or pointing at what they want by age 2.
- Doesn't have any short sentences or word combinations by age 2.
- Can say words, but doesn't use them to talk to people.

3. Adaptive:

- Difficulty eating: Losing fluid when sucking, gagging, refusing certain textures.
- Difficulty sleeping (excessive sleep, lethargy, night terrors, rigidity, tenseness).
- Extreme sensitivity to certain experiences, like bathing, dressing (Sensory Integration problems).

4. Cognitive:

- By 6 months, does not shake, bang, drop and/or mouth objects.
- By 9 months, does not turn when name is called or to locate a sound.
- By 12 months, does not containerize or put 2 things together.
- By 24 months, does not use 2 word phrases.
- By 24-30 months, no simple pretend play.
- By 30 months, not able to match shapes: Circle, triangle, *etc.*
- By 36 months, not able to feed him/herself.

5. Social/Emotional:

- Cannot be consoled.
- Doesn't make eye contact.
- Appears expressionless or is inappropriately friendly.
- Injures self (*i.e.*, scratching, biting, head banging).

Compiled by the "Babies Can't Wait" Advisory Committee, 2005

For additional information on "Babies Can't Wait" and infant assessment, contact Selina.Higgins@dfa.state.ny.us