

Special Educational Needs & Inclusion Team
Developmental Journal
(SENIT DJ)
2024 (4th edition)

Child's Name _____

Date of Birth _____

Journal start-date _____

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SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS & INCLUSION TEAM DEVELOPMENTAL JOURNAL

The Special Educational Needs and Inclusion Team Developmental Journal (SENIT DJ):



- ❖ is a small-step, evidenced-based assessment tool to understand, appreciate, and celebrate children's attainment and plan for their future learning.
- ❖ supports a Graduated Approach in line with the [Early Years Foundation Stage \(DfE, 2024\)](#) and the [Special educational needs and disability code of practice: 0 to 25 years \(DfE, 2015\)](#).
- ❖ is designed to be used to support the progress of children who present with a high level of learning need in one or more areas of their learning.
- ❖ is a working document to be used collaboratively between early years practitioners and families.

Three developmental scales are included within the SENIT DJ to inform and define learning outcomes, success criteria, and teaching strategies in support of a child's learning:



the Well-being Scale, giving a measure of a child's ability and confidence to manage and respond to their emotions as they encounter different experiences or situations;



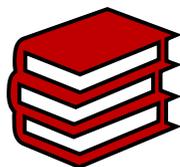
the Child Development Scale, giving a measure of a child's involvement and information about the contexts in which the child learns best; and



the Skill Development Scale, giving a fine-grained measure of a child's progress.

It is important to note:

- ❖ **The SENIT DJ is not a checklist:** it is not necessary or appropriate to record assessments for every statement.
- ❖ **The outcomes stated in each step are based on expected developmental milestones: they reflect the learning we may expect to see for a child of that age.** These statements should be treated as a guide: each child will proceed in their development at their own rate and will present attainments across a range of steps.
- ❖ In the SENIT DJ, Listening and Attention and Understanding remain as separate developmental-strands to provide for greater depth in our understanding of a child's communication and language attainment and needs.
- ❖ For the majority of children, a Graduated Approach cycle should be completed within the setting provision prior to requesting involvement from an external professional agency. However, for children entering provision with evident high-level learning needs it may be appropriate to seek such involvement earlier in the cycle.



SOURCES OF REFERENCE

The SENIT DJ has been compiled using the developmental statements identified in the following documents:

- ❖ Early Support Developmental Journal (DCSF, 2008);
- ❖ Early Support Developmental Journal for Children who have Down Syndrome (DCSF, 2008);
- ❖ Early Years Foundation Stage (DfE, 2012);
- ❖ Development Matters in the EYFS (BAECE, 2012);
- ❖ SENIT Revised Early Support Developmental Checklist (2013);
- ❖ [Statutory framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage \(DfE, 2024\)](#);
- ❖ [Development Matters non-statutory curriculum guidance for the Early Years Foundation Stage \(DfE, 2021\)](#);
- ❖ [Birth to 5 Matters non-statutory guidance for the Early Years Foundation Stage \(Early Education, 2021\)](#).

Further information

- ❖ Early Support and the EYFS: visit [the Council for Disabled Children](#) and [Early Education](#).
- ❖ Well-being Scale: drawn from A Process-Oriented Monitoring System for the Early Years (Laevers et al, 2005).
- ❖ Child Involvement Scale: an adaptation of the Leuven Involvement Scale for Young Children (LIS-YC) (Laevers, 1994) and the Effective Early Learning Programme (Bertram and Pascal, 2002).
- ❖ Skill Development Scale: an adaptation of the Continuum of Skill Development used in the Mapping and Assessing Personal Progress (MAPP) suite of materials (The Dales School, 2010); visit [Equals](#).

REVISIONS for the 2024, 4th edition

- ❖ Removal of numerical coding for each of the three development scales to encourage a greater focus upon the use of these scales to support quality conversations with and between practitioners and families.
- ❖ Presentation of two formats to record the child's summary of progress.
- ❖ Redrafting to outcome statements to provide a better affirmative, strengths-focused perspective.
- ❖ Redrafting to outcome statements to provide better acknowledgement of preferred communication methods.



WELL-BEING

Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs (1943) demonstrates how we all have basic needs that must be met before we can engage ourselves in higher levels of activity.



'Children learn best when they are healthy, safe and secure, when their individual needs are met, and when they have positive relationships with the adults caring for them' (DfE, 2021).

Using the Well-being Scale to support a Graduated Approach

- ❖ The Well-being Scale (Laevers et al, 2005) helps us to consider the extent to which a child feels comfortable and at ease with themselves and their emotions.
- ❖ The Scale has two components: key signs in a child's play and activity to signify well-being and a scale of well-being.
- ❖ The Well-being Scale offers a consistent and comparable approach to understanding a child's well-being. Reference to the scale can facilitate discussions between practitioners and parents, helping to effectively identify children who may benefit from additional support.
- ❖ Observing the child's well-being in different contexts and across the session can help identify supportive factors as well as consider where additional support may be required. Analysis of observations can help us think about the ways we can help a child to feel more safe and secure.
- ❖ Monitoring a child's well-being over time can help us review the impact of the provision and celebrate steps of progress that may not be captured in other assessment methods.

8 Signs of Well-being (adapted from Laevers et al, 2005)
<p>Flexibility Readily adapting to their environment, easily adjusts to new and different situations/experiences. They may initially be upset or confused by change but quickly accepts. Open approach to problems and frustrations.</p>
<p>Openness and Receptivity Alert to their environment, shows a willingness and eagerness to explore, both independently and with others.</p>
<p>Vitality Radiates a vitality and zest for life, displaying high levels of energy.</p>
<p>Enjoyment without restraints Happy, beaming, smiling, taking genuine pleasure in what they are doing and experiencing, enjoying the right things in the right way (i.e., not putting themselves at risk or hurting others).</p>
<p>Self-confidence and self-esteem Able to express themselves, let themselves be seen and heard by others. Tries new challenges/activities without fear of failure.</p>
<p>Relaxation and inner peace Relaxed, composed, they do not bottle up tensions, quick to settle after being excited/upset.</p>
<p>Being in touch with oneself They know what they need, feel, and think. They show their feelings, and if they are upset/frustrated they can work through these emotions.</p>
<p>Being able to defend oneself, assertiveness Stand up for themselves, expressing their own wishes, needs, and desires. They will ask for the things they need/want, in an appropriate manner. Will act assertively, not merely following directions/suggestions given by others, especially if these interfere with their own needs/wants.</p>

Well-being Scale (adapted from Laevers et al, 2005)	
Extremely High	<p>Continuously showing indications they feel happy, relaxed, and at ease:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Lively and full of energy. ❖ Self-assured, expressing their ideas, needs, and wants in appropriate ways. ❖ Eager to explore and engage, showing genuine pleasure in their activity.
High	<p>Generally happy and able to express feelings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Express their needs/wants in appropriate ways. ❖ Engages in play, showing confidence in choosing what they want to do. ❖ Rarely show signs of discomfort.
Neutral	<p>Happy most of the time:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Maybe occasionally anxious, appearing uncertain and seeking reassurance. ❖ May show distress at transitional times.
Low	<p>Signs of emotional discomfort displayed for half of the time:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Wary of adults or may cling to one person. ❖ Being near other children can cause anxiety and they may hurt others. ❖ Cannot sustain enjoyment in activities.
Extremely Low	<p>No signs of well-being are shown:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ No interest in others or in playing. ❖ Very little energy; might be withdrawn and/or becomes anxious very easily. ❖ Child may show clear signs of distress (crying, screaming, shouting) or may engage in more subtle self-soothing behaviours (thumb sucking, rocking).



READINESS FOR LEARNING

An involved child is totally absorbed in their activity and motivated to learn. The **voice of the young child** can be heard and seen in their play.

The **Child Involvement Scale** helps us to better understand the contexts in which the child learns best. This helps us plan the next steps in their learning.

Key Signals <small>(adapted from Laevers, 1994, and Bertram and Pascal, 2002)</small>	
Concentration	The child's attention is directed towards the activity. They are not distracted.
Energy	The child is eager and stimulated. They are alert and will react quickly to introduced stimuli and incorporate it within their play.
Complexity and Creativity	The child is at the highest level of their capability and shows an individual touch to their play.
Facial expression and posture	Focus of eye gaze, facial expression and body posture reveal a great deal about a child's level of concentration.
Persistence	The child puts in a lot of effort to continue an activity or to achieve a specific goal.
Precision	A child who is involved shows special care for their work and is attentive to detail because it is important to them.
Language	A child will show how important an activity is to them by their verbal and/or non-verbal language.
Satisfaction	An involved child displays a sense of satisfaction with their achievements, acknowledged by their verbal and/or non-verbal language.

The Child Involvement Scale has two components: key signals that help and inform our observations and a scale of involvement.

The Scale is used as a measure of a child's involvement in their play.

Scale of Involvement <small>(adapted from Laevers, 1994, and Bertram and Pascal, 2002)</small>	
Sustained intense activity	The child is alert and clearly absorbed in their activity. They hold uninterrupted focus on what they are doing. Their action requires mental effort and persistence. The child is at the height of their capability.
Continuous activity with intense moments	The child shows good levels of concentration, energy, and persistence for at least half of the time. They are not easily distracted. However, the activity lacks complexity.
Mainly continuous activity	Engaged in an activity at a routine, well-rehearsed level. However, they can be easily distracted.
Frequently interrupted activity	Engaged in an activity of low complexity, where for more than half the time there are frequent or long interruptions; they will stare into space or be distracted by what is happening around them.
Low activity	Lack of activity or the activity is simple, repetitive, and passive. The child seems absent and displays no energy; they may stare into space or look around to see what others are doing.



TRACKING PROGRESS

The **Skill Development Scale** has four components: prompting, fluency, consistency, and generalisation; each offers an insight into the progress that a child is making towards a specific learning outcome. Being able to talk about each component can help us share with others what progress looks like for the child.

As illustrated below, progress is expected to be seen in the direction of the arrow: both along the scale, from beginning to secure within each component, and across all four components. Progress is expected to be seen in terms of a child requiring less prompting to demonstrate a skill and to do this with greater fluency, greater consistency, and within more and varied contexts.

Skill Development Scale <small>(adapted from The Dales School, 2010)</small>	<i>Not yet evident</i>	Beginning	Developing	Establishing	Secure
Prompting = a measure of the ability to demonstrate a skill independently, from dependent to independent.	<i>No evidence of a response to any form of adult prompt in relation to the skill.</i>	Continuous physical, verbal or gestural prompting is required to demonstrate the skill.	Skill demonstrated with intermittent prompting.	Skill demonstrated with a minimum of prompting.	Skill demonstrated independently.
Fluency = a measure of a person's level of mastery, from approximate to accurate.	<i>No evidence of any degree of mastery.</i>	Continuous support provided to demonstrate the skill.	Intermittent support required to demonstrate the skill.	Skill can be demonstrated, but not always accurately.	Skill demonstrated smoothly, swiftly, and accurately.
Consistency = a measure of competency over time, from inconsistent to consistent.	<i>No evidence of consistency.</i>	Observed only on a single occasion.	Skill appears intermittently but is observed on more than one occasion.	Skill can be repeated but requires refreshing over time.	Skill performed well over time.
Generalisation = a measure of mastery across different contexts, from single context to many contexts.	<i>No mastery in any single context.</i>	Skill is demonstrated in a single context: within a particular setting, with specific materials, and/or with the same supporting person.	Skill can be repeated with some variation in setting, materials, and support.	Skill frequently demonstrated but not yet consistent across different contexts.	Skill reliably demonstrated across different contexts.

USING THE SENIT DJ TO SUPPORT A GRADUATED APPROACH: ASSESS, PLAN, DO, REVIEW

Initial assessment suggesting significant learning delay or difficulty



Enter assessments into the SENIT DJ



Agree NEXT STEPS



REVIEW



End of EYFS and transition to KS1

- Establish an understanding of the child's well-being, developmental level, and readiness for learning through consultations with the child's parents/carers and through observation.
- Where initial parent/carer consultations and assessments suggest a significant learning delay or difficulty agree next steps with the child's family, for example:
 - To use the SENIT DJ to gain a more detailed understanding of the child's attainment.
 - Where there is involvement by external professional agencies, to seek to gain their advice/support.
- Starting from the step that matches the child's chronological age, view progressively earlier steps to identify the step that provides a 'best-fit' indicator of the child's current attainment. NOTE: because the child will proceed in their development at their own rate they will present attainments across a range of steps.
- For a child with a significant learning need in a specific area of learning (such as communication and language) only use the SENIT DJ pages for the corresponding area(s) of learning.
- Enter assessments by recording the date of the assessment at the relevant level:
 - **Beginning** = skill recently begun to be observed
 - **Developing** = skill observed more frequently and beginning to be used in different contexts
 - **Secure** = skill observed often and regularly and used competently in a range of contexts.
- Write the initial assessments in the Summary of Progress chart (see page 9).
- In consultation with the child's parents/carers, use the SENIT DJ, Skill Development, Child Involvement, and Well-being assessments to help identify appropriate learning outcomes, success criteria, and teaching strategies for the term/half-term.
- Where there is involvement by external professional agencies, seek to gain their advice/support.
- Write a plan which clearly defines what practitioners will do.
- Use observations to support ongoing formative assessments. Celebrate the child's progress: refer to the Well-being, Child Involvement, and Skill Development Scales to help define what progress looks like for the child.
- Make any adjustments to provision in-line with the child's progress.
- Enter updated assessments into the SENIT DJ, recording the date of each assessment.
- At least termly, update the Summary of Progress chart to gain a quick reference record of the child's progress.
- At least termly, formally review the successes and challenges for the child with the key people who support the child's learning, including parents/carers, Key Person, and other professionals:
 - Agree the next steps in the child's learning.
 - Agree involvement by any additional external professional agencies; submit requests.
- Assessments from the SENIT DJ can be transferred directly to the child's EYFS Profile.
- Use the SENIT DJ to support the planning of appropriate next steps for entry into Key Stage 1.

SUMMARY OF PROGRESS

The following two pages contain formats that you may wish to use for recording a summary of the child’s progress. Each format has particular strengths; their use will depend upon your preference in the presentation of this information.

The first format provides a clear listing of the child’s progress by developmental age or step for each consecutive time of assessment; the second, provides a clear pictorial representation of the strengths and needs of the child by developmental age or step for each time of assessment.

The summary of progress charts provide a quick reference that illustrates the strengths and needs of the individual child, and should be used to support your consultations with parents/carers and when working with other professional agencies.

The following table illustrates the relationship between the steps of this Developmental Journal and those used within the EYFS development matters and the Birth-to-5 matters frameworks.

SENIT DJ Step	Age in Months	EYFS	Birth-to-5 Matters	SENIT DJ Step	Age in Months	EYFS	Birth-to-5 Matters
1	0-3 months	0 to 3 years	Range 1	8	18-22 months	0 to 3 years	Range 3
2	2-5 months			9	21-25 months		
3	4-7 months			10	24-31 months		Range 4
4	6-10 months			11	30-36 months		
5	9-13 months		Range 2	12	35-41 months	3 & 4 years	Range 5
6	12-16 months			13	40-50 months		
7	15-19 months			14	50-60 months +	Reception	Range 6

SUMMARY OF PROGRESS, Termly/Half-termly assessments

Name:

Date of Birth:

Enter the child's age (in months), date of assessment, and, within each strand of area of learning, state the step and level (**beg** = beginning, **dev** = developing, **sec** = secure).

Step 1 0-3 months	Step 2 2-5 months	Step 3 4-7 months	Step 4 6-10 months	Step 5 9-13 months	Step 6 12-16 months	Step 7 15-19 months	Step 8 18-22 months	Step 9 21-25 months	Step 10 24- 31 months	Step 11 30-36 months	Step 12 35-41 months	Step 13 40-50 months	Step 14 50-60+ months
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		Personal, Social and Emotional Development			Communication and Language			Physical Development		Literacy			Mathematics		Understanding the World			Expressive Arts and Design		Key Person		
Age (months)	Date	Self-regulation	Managing self	Building relationships	Listening & attention	Under- standing	Speaking	Gross-motor	Fine-motor	Compre- hension	Word-reading	Writing	Numbers	Numerical patterns	Past & present	People, culture & communities	The natural world	Creating with materials	Being imaginative & expressive			

SUMMARY OF PROGRESS, Termly/Half-termly assessments

Name:

Date of Birth:

Key Person:

Enter the date of assessment and level (**beg** = beginning, **dev** = developing, **sec** = secure) for each area of learning.

Date:		Step 1 0-3 months	Step 2 2-5 months	Step 3 4-7 months	Step 4 6-10 months	Step 5 9-13 months	Step 6 12-16 months	Step 7 15-19 months	Step 8 18-22 months	Step 9 21-25 months	Step 10 24- 31 mths	Step 11 30-36 mths	Step 12 35-41 mths	Step 13 40-50 mths	Step 14 50-60+ mths
Personal, Social & Emotional Development	Self-regulation														
	Managing self														
	Building relationships														
Communication & Language	Listening & Attention														
	Understanding														
	Speaking														
Physical Development	Gross-motor														
	Fine-motor														
Literacy	Comprehension														
	Word reading														
	Writing														
Mathematics	Numbers														
	Numerical patterns														
Understanding the World	Past & present														
	People, culture & communities														
	The natural world														
Expressive Arts & Design	Creating with materials														
	Being imaginative & expressive														

Personal, Social and Emotional Development: SELF-REGULATION			
Step 1 (0-3 months)	Beginning	Developing	Secure
a) Is comforted by touch: for example, responds to calming input, such as patting, rocking, wrapping, cuddling.			
b) Cries to express needs: for example, hunger, anger, pain.			
c) Sucks on hands, clothes, and/or pacifier to calm self.			
Step 2 (2-5 months)	Beginning	Developing	Secure
a) Calms from being upset when held, rocked, spoken, or sung to with soothing voice.			
b) Shows emotional responses to other people's emotions: for example, smiles when smiled at; becomes distressed if hears another child crying; sees a blank unresponsive face.			
c) Shows anger if physically restrained: for example, cries when held still for injection or medication.			
d) Smiles at a familiar person.			
e) Shows distress at being left alone.			
f) Becomes excited in anticipation of play/interaction: for example, waves arms/legs, vocalises.			
g) Laughs to express pleasure.			
Step 3 (4-7 months)	Beginning	Developing	Secure
a) Responds to facial expressions of happiness/sadness in others: for example, smiles if adult smiles, frowns if adult frowns.			
b) Laughs and squeals when happy or excited.			
c) Gets upset if toy is taken away from them.			
d) Shows shyness or anxiety if approached by a stranger when familiar adult is out of sight. Is wary of unfamiliar events.			
e) Can tolerate short separations from parent/carer but shows pleasure at return.			
Step 4 (6-10 months)	Beginning	Developing	Secure
a) Shows more differentiated feelings/emotions: for example, joy, fear, anger, surprise; using crying, gestures, and vocalisations freely to express their needs.			
b) Reacts to an audience: for example, repeats an activity/action that is received positively.			
Step 5 (9-13 months)	Beginning	Developing	Secure
a) Makes body stiff and vocalises when protesting.			
b) Is aware of other's feelings: for example, looks concerned if hears crying; looks excited if hears a familiar happy voice.			

Personal, Social and Emotional Development: SELF-REGULATION			
c) May become distressed and anxious if left somewhere without parent/carer.			
d) Seeks physical and emotional comfort by snuggling in to trusted adults.			
Step 6 (12-16 months)	Beginning	Developing	Secure
a) Uses comfort toy or object to calm self.			
b) Uses a comfort object, familiar others, routines, or spaces to self-soothe, particularly when separated from a close carer.			
c) Uses parent/carer for 'emotional refuelling' when feeling tired, stressed, or frustrated: for example, stops playing to have a cuddle; sits quietly snuggled in on carer's lap for a few minutes; asks for favourite story; etc.			
d) Clings to special person and hides face when feeling scared or overwhelmed.			
e) Becomes more able to adapt their behaviour and increase their participation and co-operation as they become familiar with and anticipate routines.			
Step 7 (15-19 months)	Beginning	Developing	Secure
a) Responds to a small number of boundaries with encouragement and support.			
b) Asserts their own agenda strongly and may display frustration with having to comply with others' agendas and with change and boundaries.			
c) Aware of other people's feelings: for example, looks concerned if hears crying or looks excited if hears familiar happy voice.			
d) Watches the emotional reactions of a parent/carer and uses them as a guide in new situations: for example, watches parent/carer's face before approaching a strange dog or climbing steps on slide, and stops if parent/carer looks anxious.			
e) Uses parent/carer as secure base from which to explore independently in new environments: for example, ventures away from parent/carer to play and interact with others but returns if becomes anxious.			
f) Find ways of managing transitions: for example, from their parent to their key person.			
Step 8 (18-22 months)	Beginning	Developing	Secure
a) Starts to share and 'give and take'.			
b) Expresses positive feelings such as joy and affection and negative feelings such as anger, frustration, and distress through actions, behaviours, vocalisations or a few words, and seeks reaction.			
c) May communicate physically with others if frustrated, angry, or misunderstood: for example, may hit another child if they take a toy away.			
d) Experiences a wide range of feelings with great intensity, such as anger and frustration, which can be overwhelming and result in losing control of feelings, body, and thinking.			
e) Shows embarrassment.			
f) Clings for affection when tired or afraid.			

Personal, Social and Emotional Development: SELF-REGULATION			
g) Alternates between clinging to and independence from a familiar adult.			
Step 9 (21-25 months)	Beginning	Developing	Secure
a) Understands that some things are theirs, some things are shared, and some things belong to other people.			
b) Defends own possessions.			
c) Grow in independence, rejecting help ('me do it', 'No!'). Knows own mind and expresses it, asserting their likes and dislikes, choices, decisions, and ideas. Sometimes this leads to feelings of frustration and dysregulation.			
d) Understands causes of some feelings: for example, feels sad because a toy is broken; frustrated when can't go out to play.			
e) Is aware of other's feelings and is beginning to show empathy by offering a comfort object to another child or sharing in another child's excitement.			
f) Conscious of adult approval or disapproval for their own actions: for example, checks to see if adult is looking before acting; looks guilty if seen acting in a manner that may be disapproved.			
Step 10 (24-31 months)	Beginning	Developing	Secure
a) Shows understanding of some rules and routines.			
b) Participates more in collective cooperation as their experience of routines and understanding of some boundaries grows.			
c) Shows affection towards other children and younger siblings.			
d) Is jealous of sharing parent/carers' attention.			
e) Can feel overwhelmed by intense emotions, resulting in an emotional collapse when frightened, frustrated, angry, anxious, or overstimulated.			
f) Seeks comfort from familiar adults when needed and distracts themselves with a comfort object when upset.			
Step 11 (30-36 months)	Beginning	Developing	Secure
a) Understands they have to share and take turns but might not always be willing to do so.			
b) Know they cannot always have what they want when they want it.			
c) Generally, more co-operative and amenable to family rules: for example, has fewer periods of dysregulation.			
d) Demonstrates concern for others when they are upset: for example, offers favourite toy; offers cuddle; etc.			
e) Beginning to understand that own actions affect other people. In favourable conditions, begins to stop themselves from doing something they should not do.			
f) Begin to show 'effortful control': for example, waiting for a turn and resisting the strong impulse to grab what they want or push their way to the front.			

Personal, Social and Emotional Development: SELF-REGULATION			
g) Expresses the self-aware emotions of pride and embarrassment as well as a wide range of other feelings.			
h) Be increasingly able to think about, communicate about, and manage their emotions. Safely explore emotions beyond their normal range through play and stories. Using their preferred communication method, communicates about their feelings in more elaborated ways: 'I'm sad because...' or 'I love it when ...'			
Step 12 (35-41 months)	Beginning	Developing	Secure
a) Is sometimes stubborn or negative and reacts with annoyance to frustration.			
b) Expresses a wide range of feelings in their interactions with others and through their behaviour and play, including excitement and anxiety, guilt and self-doubt.			
c) May exhibit increased fearfulness of things like the dark or monsters, etc., and possibly have nightmares.			
d) Remember rules without needing an adult to remind them.			
e) Can communicate about their feelings, using words like 'happy', 'sad', 'angry', or 'worried' using their preferred communication method.			
Step 13 (40-50 months)	Beginning	Developing	Secure
a) Often actively seeks sharing and fairness.			
b) Is curious about others and can adapt behaviour to fit in with different events and social situations: for example, removing socks and shoes before going on slide after seeing others doing this.			
c) Understands own actions affect other people: for example, becomes upset or tries to comfort another child when they realise they have upset them.			
d) Shows care and concern for others: living things and the environment.			
e) Find solutions to conflicts and rivalries: for example, accepting that not everyone can be Spider-Man in the game and suggesting other ideas. Uses their preferred communication method to solve conflicts with others.			
f) Comments about how others might be feeling and responds according to their understanding of the other person's needs/wants using their preferred communication method.			
g) Understands that expectations vary depending on different events, social situations, and changes in routine, and, in favourable conditions, becomes more able to adapt their behaviour.			
h) Increasingly follow rules, understanding why they are important.			
i) Develop appropriate ways of being assertive.			
Step 14 (50-60 months+)	Beginning	Developing	Secure
a) Enjoys and joins in with shared play appropriately: for example, turn-taking and sharing.			
b) Understands their own and other people's feelings, offering empathy and comfort. Attempts to repair a relationship or situation where they have caused upset, and understands how their actions impact other people.			

Personal, Social and Emotional Development: SELF-REGULATION			
c) Is more able to manage their feelings and tolerate situations in which their wishes cannot be met.			
EARLY LEARNING GOAL	<p>Show an understanding of their own feelings and those of others, and begin to regulate their behaviour accordingly.</p> <p>Set and work towards simple goals, being able to wait for what they want and control their immediate impulses when appropriate.</p> <p>Give focused attention to what others say, responding appropriately even when engaged in activity, and show an ability to follow instructions involving several ideas or actions.</p>		

Personal, Social and Emotional Development: MANAGING SELF				
Step 1 (0-3 months)		Beginning	Developing	Secure
a) Makes sounds such as gurgles, coos.				
b) Smiles at interesting objects.				
c) Smiles in response to touch or sound.				
d) Responds to being rocked as a means of soothing.				
e) Opens mouth to feed when corner of mouth is touched.				
f) Sucking is strong and rhythmic with co-ordinated swallowing.				
Step 2 (2-5 months)		Beginning	Developing	Secure
a) Makes needs known through crying and body movements. Uses different sounds/cries to show hunger, tiredness, pain. Expresses discomfort, hunger or thirst, distress, and need for holding or moving.				
b) Responds to and thrives on warm, sensitive, physical contact and care.				
c) Produces and copies non-speech sounds: for example, coos, raspberries.				
d) Smiles at non-moving object or picture.				
e) Smiles or makes sounds in response to eye contact.				
f) Learns about their physical self through exploratory play with their hands and feet and movement.				
g) Responds and turns to sounds, especially voices.				
h) Settles to sleep with calming input when tired.				
i) Sleeps more at night than in the day.				

Personal, Social and Emotional Development: MANAGING SELF			
Step 3 (4-7 months)	Beginning	Developing	Secure
a) Shows pleasure at being tickled and other physical games.			
b) Expresses awareness of their physical self through their own movements, gestures, and expressions and by touching their own and other's faces, eyes, and mouth in play and care events.			
c) Is becoming aware of self as they imitate sounds and expressions that are mirrored back to them by close adults: for example, laughing and gurgling during physical interactions.			
d) Sleeps consistently for several hours during the night. Sleeps for 14-16 hours a day with several short naps.			
e) Tolerates hair and face washing.			
f) Starts to move to solid feeding (current recommendations are at around 6 months) as well as milk.			
Step 4 (6-10 months)	Beginning	Developing	Secure
a) Uses voice or gesture to refuse: for example, pushing object away, shaking head.			
b) Laughs during games with familiar adult.			
c) Shows delight at active play: for example, rough and tumble, tickling.			
d) Repeats enjoyable activity: for example, pushing buttons on a musical toy.			
e) Demonstrates motivation and curiosity when exploring a new and interesting object, using a variety of senses.			
f) Shows attachment to special people: for example, distressed when separated, stays close, and shows affection.			
g) Shows an interest in their reflection in a mirror (for example, smiles at image of self in mirror), although may not yet realise that the reflection is them.			
h) Shows awareness of being a separate individual through initiating contact with others using voice, gesture, eye contact, and facial expression.			
i) Shows growing confidence that their needs will be met by freely expressing their need for comfort, nourishment, or company.			
j) Anticipates bedtime due to routine: for example, bath/pyjamas/drink/story, then expects to be put down.			
k) Alert for periods of increasing length, interspersed with naps.			
l) Tolerates teeth and gum cleaning routine as teeth emerge. First teeth usually appear: two lower incisors, then two upper.			
m) Communicates discomfort or distress with wet or soiled nappy.			
n) No longer requires feeding at night.			
o) Anticipates food routines with interest.			

Personal, Social and Emotional Development: MANAGING SELF			
Step 5 (9-13 months)	Beginning	Developing	Secure
a) Expresses feelings (such as joy, distress, frustration, and fear) and communicates them through gesture, facial expression, movements, body language, and vocalisations.			
b) Explores new toys but looks back to parent/carer regularly to 'check in'.			
c) Builds relationships with special people: for example, shows affection or holds your attention by vocalising.			
d) Responds to their own name and enjoys finding own nose, eyes, or tummy as part of interactive games.			
e) Sleeps through the night consistently.			
f) Begins actively participating in bathing: for example, laying still for dressing/undressing. Chews on baby toothbrush.			
g) Actively cooperates with nappy changing: for example, lies still, holds legs up.			
h) Holds bottle or sipper cup.			
i) Opens mouth for spoon.			
Step 6 (12-16 months)	Beginning	Developing	Secure
a) Laughs in anticipation: for example, waiting for tickle in 'round the garden'.			
b) Uses other person to help achieve a goal: for example, to get an object out of reach; activate a wind-up toy.			
c) Laughs at discrepancies: for example, putting shoe on head.			
d) Becomes distressed if intended action is thwarted: for example, when stopped from throwing a toy.			
e) Starts to communicate urination and bowel movements through facial expression and body movements.			
f) Grasps finger foods and brings them to mouth, and shares control of spoon and bottle or cup.			
g) Attempts to use spoon or other utensil: can guide towards mouth but food often falls off.			
Step 7 (15-19 months)	Beginning	Developing	Secure
a) Explores new toys and environments but looks back or moves back to familiar adult to 'check in'.			
b) Aware of and interested in their own and other's physical characteristics, pointing to and naming features (nose, hair, etc.).			
c) Understands that their own voice and actions causes an effect on others: for example, clapping hands starts a game; repeats an action which is received positively by a smile or applause.			
d) Shows separation anxiety as they become more aware of themselves as separate individuals.			
e) Is persistent in completing tasks and activities with more than one part: for example, puzzle, posting, etc.			

Personal, Social and Emotional Development: MANAGING SELF			
f) Shows pride and pleasure in new accomplishments.			
g) Shows growing self-confidence through playing freely and with involvement.			
h) Shows an emerging autonomy through asserting choices and preferences, such as different tastes, and rejects things they do not want, for example by pushing them away.			
i) Shows rapid changes in energy levels, from highly active to a sudden need for adult support in order to restore equilibrium.			
j) Accepts new textures and tastes: for example, larger pieces of food and different types.			
k) Sleeps for 11-15 hours a day, with naps appropriate to the child. Self-soothes and can sleep when conditions are right.			
l) Takes off easily removed clothes.			
m) Shows awareness of what toilet/potty is used for.			
n) Signals wet or soiled nappy or pants through facial expression, body language, sign or words, such as 'wee' or 'poo'.			
o) Develops own likes and dislikes in food and drink and may refuse disliked food or drink.			
Step 8 (18-22 months)	Beginning	Developing	Secure
a) Experiments with what their bodies can do through setting themselves physical challenges: for example, pulling a large truck upstairs.			
b) Helps with dressing: for example, holds out arm for sleeve or foot for shoe.			
c) Is aware of where clothes are kept: for example, outdoor coat and shoes by the door.			
d) Starts to help with dress and hygiene routines: for example, holds out arm/foot; brushes own hair.			
e) Participates in bedtime routine.			
f) Tolerates use of toothbrush and paste. Generally, has up to 12 teeth. Willing to allow baby toothbrush to be used on teeth.			
g) Holds cup with both hands and drinks without spilling much.			
h) Scoops food onto spoon independently.			
Step 9 (21-25 months)	Beginning	Developing	Secure
a) Starts interaction with other children: for example, will often watch, follow and imitate others in their play; begin to cooperate within shared-play activities with other children.			
b) Grow in independence, rejecting help ('me do it', 'No!'). Knows own mind and expresses it, asserting their likes and dislikes, choices, decisions, and ideas. Sometimes this leads to feelings of frustration and tantrums.			
c) Begins to use 'me', 'you' and 'I' in their talk/sign and to show awareness of their social identity of gender, ethnicity, and ability.			

Personal, Social and Emotional Development: MANAGING SELF			
d) Enjoys hugs and cuddles, and seeks comfort from attachment figure when they feel the need.			
e) Sleeps for 12-14 hours a day, possibly with one/two naps. (Daytime sleeping continues to be important for healthy development.)			
f) Puts on hat and slip-on shoes.			
g) Indicates need for toilet by behaviour: for example, dancing movements or holding self.			
h) Tolerates sitting on the toilet/potty.			
i) Generally, has up to 16 teeth; helps adult with brushing teeth.			
j) Feeds self competently with spoon.			
k) Drinks well without spilling.			
Step 10 (24-31 months)	Beginning	Developing	Secure
a) Uses others as sources of information by asking questions.			
b) Shows a sense of autonomy through asserting their ideas and preferences and making choices and decisions. Makes choices that involve challenge.			
c) Identifies self with children of same age and sex. Is developing an understanding of and interest in differences of gender, ethnicity, and ability.			
d) Feels confident when taken out around the local neighbourhood and enjoys exploring new places with their key person.			
e) Takes off loose coat or shirt when undone. Removes pull down garments.			
f) Unzips front zipper on coat or jacket. Can undo Velcro fasteners.			
g) Clearly communicates wet or soiled nappy or pants, showing increasing awareness of bladder and bowel urges.			
h) Asks for toilet when needed using voice/sign, gesture, or action.			
i) Mostly dry during the day with occasional accidents.			
j) Develops own likes and dislikes in food and drink; willing to try new food textures and tastes.			
Step 11 (30-36 months)	Beginning	Developing	Secure
a) More confident in new social situations but may be anxious at first.			
b) Participates in familiar routines: for example, follows tidy-up routines with adult guidance.			
c) Recognises self in mirror or photo: for example, if looks in a mirror and sees dirt on face, tries to wipe it off, or points to self in photo when asked.			

Personal, Social and Emotional Development: MANAGING SELF			
d) Can increasingly express their thoughts and emotions through their preferred communication method as well as continuing to use facial expression.			
e) Pulls up own trousers and pulls up zipper.			
f) Develops some independence in self-care and shows an awareness of routines such as handwashing or teeth cleaning but still often needs adult support.			
g) Develops increasing understanding of and control of their bowel and bladder urges and starts to communicate their need for the preferred choice of potty or toilet.			
h) Knows difference between bowel and bladder function and can show this.			
i) Stabs food with fork.			
Step 12 (35-41 months)	Beginning	Developing	Secure
a) Shows independence in selecting and carrying out activities: for example, self-selects toys/materials and uses them in play.			
b) Enjoys responsibility of carrying out small tasks such as carrying a bag back from the shops.			
c) Experiments with their own and other people's views of who they are through their play, through trying out different behaviours and the way they communicate about themselves.			
d) Begins to recognise danger and seeks the support and comfort of significant adults.			
e) Can communicate to adults when hungry, full-up, or tired or when they want to rest, sleep, or play.			
f) Needs to sleep for 10–13 hours in a 24-hour period which may include a nap, with regular sleep and wake-up times.			
g) Takes pride in appearance: for example, prefers certain clothes.			
h) Puts arms into open-fronted coat or shirt when held up.			
i) Can wash and can dry hands effectively and understands why this is important.			
j) Pulls down own pants when using the toilet.			
Step 13 (40-50 months)	Beginning	Developing	Secure
a) Is becoming more aware of the similarities and differences between themselves and others in more detailed ways and identifies themselves in relation to social groups and to their peers.			
b) Has an awareness and pride in self as having own identity and abilities and welcomes praise. Is sensitive to others' messages of appreciation or criticism.			
c) Shows their confidence and self-esteem through being outgoing towards people, taking risks, and trying new things or new social situations, and being able to express their needs and ask adults for help using their preferred communication method.			
d) Buttons up clothes.			

Personal, Social and Emotional Development: MANAGING SELF				
e) Gains more bowel and bladder control and can attend to toileting needs most of the time themselves. Reliably dry and clean during the day.				
f) Eats competently with knife and fork.				
g) Willing to try a range of different textures and tastes and expresses a preference.				
h) Observes and can describe in words or actions the effects of physical activity on their bodies.				
i) Takes practical action to reduce risk, showing their understanding that equipment and tools can be used safely.				
Step 14 (50-60 months+)		Beginning	Developing	Secure
a) Can describe self in positive terms and comment about own strengths and weaknesses using their preferred communication method.				
b) Has a clear idea about what they want to do in their play and how they want to go about it. Selects and uses activities and resources independently. Shows confidence in choosing resources and perseverance in carrying out a chosen activity.				
c) Shows confidence in communicating with others about their own needs, wants, interests, and opinions in familiar group.				
d) Recognises that they belong to different communities and social groups, and communicates freely about own home and community. Is more aware of their relationships to particular social groups and sensitive to prejudice and discrimination.				
e) Dresses and undresses independently.				
f) Takes responsibility for self-care in washing, teeth cleaning, and toileting.				
g) Eats a healthy range of foodstuffs and understands need for variety in food.				
h) Using their preferred communication method, describes a range of different food textures and tastes when cooking, and notices changes when they are combined or exposed to hot and cold temperatures.				
i) Using their preferred communication method, describes physical changes to the body that can occur when feeling unwell, anxious, tired, angry, or sad.				
j) Shows understanding of the need for safety when tackling new challenges, and considers and manages some risks by taking independent action or by giving a verbal warning to others.				
k) Shows understanding of how to transport and store equipment safely.				
l) Practices some appropriate safety measures without direct supervision, considering both benefits and risk.				
EARLY LEARNING GOAL	<p>Be confident to try new activities, and show independence, resilience, and perseverance in the face of challenge.</p> <p>Using their preferred communication method the child will explain the reasons for rules, know right from wrong, and try to behave accordingly.</p> <p>Manage their own basic hygiene and personal needs, including dressing, going to the toilet, and understanding the importance of healthy food choices.</p>			

Personal, Social and Emotional Development: BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS			
Step 1 (0-3 months)	Beginning	Developing	Secure
a) Attention attracted/held if adult uses lively facial expressions and speech (varied tone/volume).			
b) Responds when talked to: for example, moves arms and legs, changes facial expression, moves body, sticks out tongue, widening eyes.			
c) Enjoys the company of others and seeks contact with others from birth.			
Step 2 (2-5 months)	Beginning	Developing	Secure
a) Makes sounds and movements to initiate interaction with another person.			
b) Makes own sounds when talked to, especially to parent/carer, and when a smiling face is used.			
c) Shows their readiness to be social through using their sensory abilities, following movement, and gazing at faces intently: for example, gazes a long time at parent/carer's face, especially when feeding.			
d) Usually calms, smiles, or reduces crying when hearing their parents/carers' voice or smells their clothing.			
Step 3 (4-7 months)	Beginning	Developing	Secure
a) Holds up arms to be picked up and cuddled, and is soothed by physical touch, such as being held, cuddled, and stroked: for example, calms, snuggles in, smiles, gazes at carer's face or strokes them.			
Step 4 (6-10 months)	Beginning	Developing	Secure
a) Takes turns in interactions with others: for example, quietens when other person talks.			
b) Engage with others through gestures, gaze, and talk: for example, babbles.			
c) Uses interactions to achieve a goal: for example, gesture towards their cup to say they want a drink.			
d) Shows awareness of other children: for example, watching, smiling, moving close to them.			
e) Laughs with favourite people.			
f) Begins to display attachment behaviours such as wanting to stay near and becoming upset when left with an unfamiliar person.			
g) Becomes wary of unfamiliar people or people they have not seen for a while.			
Step 5 (9-13 months)	Beginning	Developing	Secure
a) Shows interest in the activities of others and responds differently to children and adults: for example, may be more interested in watching children than adults or may pay more attention when children talk to them.			
b) Points to draw other people's attention to things of interest.			

Personal, Social and Emotional Development: BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS			
c) Follows with gaze when an adult directs attention to an object by pointing and looking.			
d) Looks back as they crawl or walk away from their key person.			
e) Looks for clues about how to respond to something interesting: for example, by copying an adult when they show surprise by taking a sharp intake of breath, drawing their open-hand to their mouth, and then pointing at the thing of interest (with the adult then exclaiming 'Look!').			
Step 6 (12-16 months)	Beginning	Developing	Secure
a) Shows interest in the activities of others: for example, watches parent/carer prepare meal; children kicking a ball.			
b) Draws others into social interaction through calling, crying and babbling, smiling, laughing and moving their bodies and limbs.			
c) Shares interest and attention by looking to where the adult is looking, pointing and using their gaze to direct the adult's attention to something.			
d) Builds relationships with special people. Displays attachment behaviours such as wanting to stay near to their close carers, checking where they are, and protesting when separated.			
Step 7 (15-19 months)	Beginning	Developing	Secure
a) Plays alongside other children but remains engaged in their own play.			
b) Plays happily alone but near familiar adult.			
c) Plays cooperatively with an adult: for example, may kick or roll the ball back-and-forth.			
d) Closely watches others' body language to begin to understand their intentions and meaning.			
Step 8 (18-22 months)	Beginning	Developing	Secure
a) Is fascinated by other children, watching them and interacting with them through offering toys, food, etc., and by reaching for objects being used by another child.			
b) Can tolerate brief separations from special people.			
c) Explores the environment, interacts with others, and plays confidently while their parent/carer or key person is close by; using them as a secure base to return to for reassurance if anxious or in unfamiliar situations.			
d) Starts to share and 'give and take'.			
Step 9 (21-25 months)	Beginning	Developing	Secure
a) Starts interaction with other children: for example, will often watch, follow and imitate others in their play; begin to cooperate within shared-play activities with other children.			
b) Hands a toy to an adult for assistance when unable to get it to work: sees adult as someone who can help.			

Personal, Social and Emotional Development: BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS			
c) Responds positively to a variety of familiar carers.			
d) Searches out adult when hurt or distressed.			
Step 10 (24-31 months)	Beginning	Developing	Secure
a) Takes a lead in positive interactions with special people: for example, initiates interaction; shows spontaneous affection; can wait a little while before seeking others for comfort and security.			
b) Is curious about others and will modify behaviour to fit in with what others are doing: for example, removing shoes/socks before going on slide after seeing others do this.			
c) Builds relationships with special people but may show anxiety in the presence of strangers.			
d) Shows some understanding that other people have perspectives, ideas, and needs that are different to theirs: for example, may turn a book to face you so you can see it.			
Step 11 (30-36 months)	Beginning	Developing	Secure
a) Seeks out others to share experiences with and may choose to play with a familiar friend or a child who has similar interest.			
b) Includes another child in their play sequence and may communicate to them as they do so.			
c) Shows empathy and concern for people who are special to them by partially matching other's feelings with their own: for example, may offer a child a toy they know they like.			
d) Likes to sit, have a cuddle, and share events of the day with a familiar adult.			
e) Gets satisfaction from doing things with other people.			
f) Notices and queries differences and similarities, such as skin colour, types of hair, gender, special needs, and disabilities through words or gesture.			
Step 12 (35-41 months)	Beginning	Developing	Secure
a) Forms a special relationship with another child.			
b) Seeks out companionship with adults and other children, sharing experiences and play ideas.			
c) Plays with one or more other children, extending and elaborating play ideas.			
d) Regularly uses adults as a source of knowledge, comfort, and shared activity.			
e) Uses their experiences of adult behaviours to guide their social relationships and interactions.			
Step 13 (40-50 months)	Beginning	Developing	Secure
a) Enjoys playing alone, alongside, and with others, inviting others to play and attempting to join others' play.			

Personal, Social and Emotional Development: BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS				
b) In favourable conditions, shows increasing consideration of other people's needs and gradually exercises more impulse control: for example, giving up a toy to another who wants it.				
c) Is more outgoing towards strangers and more confident in new social situations: for example, plays within a group but may be anxious at first, taking time to settle into a new environment.				
d) Can express wishes and needs clearly and understands when these are not immediately met.				
e) Communicate with others to solve conflicts.				
Step 14 (50-60 months+)		Beginning	Developing	Secure
a) Plays co-operatively as part of a group to act out a narrative.				
b) Is increasingly flexible and cooperative as they are more able to understand other people's needs, wants and behaviours.				
c) Returns to the secure base of a familiar adult to recharge and gain emotional support and practical help in difficult situations.				
d) Represents and recreates what they have learnt about social interactions from their relationships with close adults, in their play and relationships with others.				
e) Develops particular friendships with other children, which help them to understand different points of view and to challenge their own and others' thinking.				
EARLY LEARNING GOAL	Work and play cooperatively and take turns with others. Form positive attachments to adults and friendships with peers. Show sensitivity to their own and to others' needs.			

Communication and Language: LISTENING AND ATTENTION

For specific support for a child please contact your local [Speech and Language Therapy service](#). For guidance regarding activities to support the development of communication and language skills refer to the [Leeds Community Healthcare NHS Trust - Speech and Language Therapy Toolkit](#).

Step 1 (0-3 months)	Beginning	Developing	Secure
a) Actions/behaviour shows reaction to sounds: for example, startle to loud noises, eyes widen, limbs move or slow, facial twitch, cry, change in sucking patterns during feeding, change in breathing pattern.			
b) Attention attracted/held if adult uses lively facial expressions and speech (varied tone/volume).			
c) Copies facial expressions/mouth shapes: sticking out tongue, widening eyes, open mouth.			
Step 2 (2-5 months)	Beginning	Developing	Secure
a) Becomes excited in anticipation of play/interaction: for example, waves arm/legs, vocalises.			
b) Gazes at parent/carer's face during interactions, especially when feeding or being spoken to.			
c) Reacts by smiling, looking and moving, and makes sounds in response when parent/carer talks and interacts with them.			
d) Turns head to parent/carer's voice or other familiar sounds.			
e) Shows attention to sounds and music.			
f) Notices patterns with strong contrasts and appears attracted by patterns resembling the human face.			
g) Shows excitement at sound of approaching voices or footsteps.			
h) Quietens or alerts to the sound of speech.			
Step 3 (4-7 months)	Beginning	Developing	Secure
a) Enjoys listening to early interactive nursery rhymes: for example, 'Round and round the garden'.			
b) Enjoys singing, music and toys that make sounds: for example, looks towards the sound, or shows pleasure through facial expression or vocalisation.			
c) Looks towards place where parent/carer is looking.			
d) Aware of events in their environment: for, example: searches with eyes when hears familiar person enter room.			
e) Shows interest in moving pictures and sound, such as on a television-			
f) Looks puzzled or changes behaviour when hearing something new, different or unexpected.			
g) Listens to parent/carers' voices even if they can't see them.			
h) Is calmed by a familiar and friendly voice.			
i) Looks intently at person talking but stops responding if speaker turns away.			

Communication and Language: LISTENING AND ATTENTION			
Step 4 (6-10 months)	Beginning	Developing	Secure
a) Anticipates actions, tickles, etc. from sounds and tunes of songs and rhymes: for example, giggles at end of 'round the garden' when waiting for a tickle.			
b) Has fleeting attention and is easily distracted.			
c) Turns immediately to familiar voices or familiar sounds across a room.			
d) Watches and follows adult movements.			
e) Takes turns in interactions with others: for example, quietens when the other person talks, and may vocalise or make a movement when they pause.			
Step 5 (9-13 months)	Beginning	Developing	Secure
a) Can get absorbed in an activity and will ignore distractions.			
b) Looks at the person speaking.			
c) Locates the direction sound comes from: for example, looks appropriately in the direction of sound.			
d) Recognises the voices of key people in their life.			
e) Copies what adults do, taking 'turns' in conversations (through babbling) and activities. Tries to copy adult speech and lip movements.			
f) Understands the meaning associated with some environmental sounds: for example, hears phone ring and immediately looks at it.			
g) Moves whole body to sounds they enjoy: for example, music or a regular beat or being sung to.			
h) When presented with an Object-of-Reference to refer to a specific routine or play activity, they notice their communication partner showing them the object and make actions that suggest they are ready to move with them: for example: takes the adult's hand, prepares to walk, etc. (Note: this does not necessarily mean that they understand the direct reference made by a particular Object-of-Reference.)			
Step 6 (12-16 months)	Beginning	Developing	Secure
a) New or dominant stimuli take all of their attention.			
b) Demonstrates joint attention: for example, looks at/points toward an object when parent/carer draws their attention to it.			
c) Looks at an object then back to adult to direct the communication partner's attention to it.			
d) Concentrates intently on an object or activity of own choosing for short periods.			
e) Watches and listens to others, copying some behaviours in own play.			
f) Attends to pictures for a short time, labelling, making a comment or gesturing, with adult guidance or independently.			

Communication and Language: LISTENING AND ATTENTION			
g) Bounces rhythmically when being sung to or when listening to music.			
h) Takes part in two-way interactions with a communicative partner, through simple conversations or exchange of gestures, focusing on the here and now or frequent events that are about to happen: for example, meals or bath time.			
Step 7 (15-19 months)	Beginning	Developing	Secure
a) Looks at a communication partner to gain attention before pointing.			
b) Enjoys nursery rhymes and demonstrates listening by trying to join in with actions and/or vocalisation.			
c) Listens and responds to simple instructions in context: for example, 'give me the ball' when speech/sign/visual cues are used by the communication partner.			
d) Plays 'Ready Steady Go' or '1-2-3 go' games; listening and waiting or sometimes imitating alongside speaker, and shows anticipation in relation to key phrases/signs/visual cues.			
Step 8 (18-22 months)	Beginning	Developing	Secure
a) Follows directions if they relate to what they are doing when speech/sign/visual cues are used by the communication partner: for example, responds to 'come and sit here' when a snack or drink is on the table; goes to get a specific favourite picture book when requested; looks at a photograph of a drinking cup used to signal snack time.			
b) Listens and enjoys rhythmic patterns in rhymes and stories, trying to join in with actions and vocalisations.			
c) Attends to speech directed to them and listens with interest to general talk.			
d) Learns to wait for others to finish what they are saying: better at turn-taking and fewer vocal clashes.			
e) Plays simple co-operative listening games: for example, 'give it to...'			
f) Waits for 'go' signal in 'ready, steady, go' games.			
g) Single channel attention. May appear not to hear, but actually needs to ignore external stimuli in order to concentrate.			
h) Pays attention to own choice of activity, may move quickly from one thing to another.			
Step 9 (21-25 months)	Beginning	Developing	Secure
a) Frequently repeats words/signs they hear/see. One or more key word/sign repeated.			
b) Listens with interest to the noises adults make when they read stories.			
c) Listens to and carries out simple verbal directions with no or minimal additional visual/gestural prompts.			
d) Attends to a pictorial symbol presented by an adult to refer to an immediately upcoming activity.			
e) Recognises and responds to many familiar sounds: for example, going to the door when they hear a knock.			
f) Recognises and joins in with songs and actions: for example, 'Wheels on the bus'.			

Communication and Language: LISTENING AND ATTENTION			
g) Attention can shift to a different task if attention is fully obtained. Saying the child's name can help them to focus.			
Step 10 (24-31 months)	Beginning	Developing	Secure
a) Shows sustained engagement and interactions when sharing a play activity with an adult.			
b) For a child requiring a highly structured approach to access a learning activity: Begins to attend to each activity in a two-activity sequence within a Start/Finish structured session.			
c) With adult help, is able to shift their full attention to the speaker and then back to an activity. Attention is becoming more flexible but can easily be distracted by other things.			
d) Picks out familiar sounds even when there is background noise: for example, 'dinner time', 'no', 'stop.'			
e) Listens to music and responds when it is turned off: for example, stops singing or dancing.			
Step 11 (30-36 months)	Beginning	Developing	Secure
a) Concentrates and listens for more than 10 minutes in adult-led activities that they enjoy.			
b) Is able to follow directions in play if not intently focused on own choice of activity.			
c) For a child requiring a highly structured approach to access a learning activity: Completes a two-activity sequence within a Start/Finish structured session following a pictorial strip.			
d) Notices if adult uses wrong language in familiar stories or rhymes.			
e) Remembers three to four items shown on a visually represented list.			
Step 12 (35-41 months)	Beginning	Developing	Secure
a) Able to better focus attention. Tend to either listen or do, but can now shift own attention: for example, can alternate full attention between the speaker and the task. Beginning to shift attention without adult support.			
b) Fills in the missing words or phrases using speech, sign or gesture in a known rhyme, story retelling or game.			
c) For a child requiring a highly structured approach to access a learning activity: Completes a three- or four-activity sequence within a Start/Finish structured session following a pictorial strip.			
d) Remembers a spoken list of three objects or names (no visual cues).			
Step 13 (40-50 months)	Beginning	Developing	Secure
a) Listens to others one-to-one or in small groups when conversation interests them.			
b) Joins in with repeated refrains and anticipates key events and phrases in rhymes and stories.			
c) Listens to longer stories and can remember much of what happens.			
d) Shows variability in listening; may move around and fiddle but still be listening or sit still but not absorbed by activity.			

Communication and Language: LISTENING AND ATTENTION				
Step 14 (50-60 months+)		Beginning	Developing	Secure
a) Understands verbal instruction related to the task without interrupting the task to look at the speaker. Concentration span is short, but group instruction is possible if task appropriate. Two channel attention control. Can listen and do for short span.				
EARLY LEARNING GOAL	<p>Using their preferred communication method the child will:</p> <p>Listen attentively and respond to what they hear with relevant questions, comments, and actions when being read to and during whole class discussions and small group interactions.</p> <p>Make comments about what they have heard and ask questions to clarify their understanding.</p> <p>Hold conversation when engaged in back-and-forth exchanges with adults and peers.</p>			

Communication and Language: UNDERSTANDING (RECEPTIVE)				
For specific support for a child please contact your local Speech and Language Therapy service . For guidance regarding activities to support the development of communication and language skills refer to the Leeds Community Healthcare NHS Trust - Speech and Language Therapy Toolkit .				
Step 1 (0-3 months)		Beginning	Developing	Secure
a) Smiles/quietens to familiar voice/face.				
Step 2 (2-5 months)		Beginning	Developing	Secure
a) Recognises/most responsive to main carer's voice: for example, is more vocal/active or offers more eye contact.				
b) Makes own sounds when talked to, especially to parent/carer and when a smiling face is used.				
Step 3 (4-7 months)		Beginning	Developing	Secure
a) Responds differently to different tones of your voice (the tone of voice helps the child to understand meaning): for example, sing-song, soothing, questioning, playful.				
b) Vocalises more when adults use child-directed speech.				
c) Smiles and becomes animated in response to a familiar person, sometimes making sounds.				
d) Vocalises back when talked to, making own sounds, especially to familiar adult and when a smiling face is used.				
Step 4 (6-10 months)		Beginning	Developing	Secure
a) Recognises and responds to own name: for example, turns or looks up in response to name.				
b) Recognises some familiar names: for example, Mummy, Daddy, names of siblings.				
c) Understands words they hear a lot and that are said with gesture: for example, 'all gone', 'bye-bye'.				

Communication and Language: UNDERSTANDING (RECEPTIVE)			
Step 5 (9-13 months)	Beginning	Developing	Secure
a) Shows understanding of familiar objects by actions: for example, pretends to drink from an empty cup.			
b) Initiates give and take games by offering objects.			
c) Regularly stops activity when told 'no'.			
d) Responds to simple familiar language in context: for example, child moves/looks to door when parent/carer holds up keys and says 'time to go'. (The child is mainly responding to tone of voice and situational cues in a well known routine.)			
e) Understands name of some common objects: for example, picks up or points to a toy when it is named/signed.			
f) Waves 'bye-bye' when asked.			
g) Responds to familiar words/signs/visual cues in play: for example, looks to find ball in response to 'Where's the ball?'			
h) Recognises some family names such as Mummy, Daddy, names of siblings or family pets and will turn to look when the name is said/signed.			
i) Responds to words and interactive rhymes: for example, joins in with 'clap hands'.			
j) Enjoys finding their nose, eyes or tummy as part of a naming game.			
k) When presented with an Object-of-Reference to refer to a specific routine or play activity, they notice their communication partner showing them the object and make actions that suggest they are ready to move with them: for example: takes the adult's hand, prepares to walk, etc. (Note: this does not necessarily mean that they understand the direct reference made by a particular Object-of-Reference.)			
Step 6 (12-16 months)	Beginning	Developing	Secure
a) Shows understanding of at least 15 words/signs/gestures used in reference to the immediate context: for example, looks, points to, or finds an object when asked, such as in response to 'Where's your shoes?'			
b) Shows understanding of at least 10 Objects-of-Reference used to refer to specific routine or play activities: for example, they move/look towards the table when presented with a drinking cup for 'snack time', etc.			
c) Points to named/signed items in picture book.			
d) Can choose between two presented objects: for example, in response to "Do you want the ball or the car?"			
e) Two-way interactions take place between an adult and the child mainly focusing on the here and now, using simple conversations or exchange of gestures.			
Step 7 (15-19 months)	Beginning	Developing	Secure
a) Demonstrates increasing understanding of vocabulary at a one-word level at a rate of 1-2 new words/signs/objects a week.			
b) Follows simple instructions, particularly if accompanied by gestures and/or signs: for example, pointing to things or people.			

Communication and Language: UNDERSTANDING (RECEPTIVE)			
c) Identifies simple body parts on self and others: for example, hair, eyes, ears, nose.			
d) Anticipates what will happen next when shown an Object-of-Reference.			
Step 8 (18-22 months)	Beginning	Developing	Secure
a) Recognises and will identify many objects and pictures when named/signed.			
b) Shows understanding of at least 15 photographs used to refer to specific routine or play activities.			
c) Picks out two or more objects from a group of four: for example, 'Give me the cup and the doll.'			
d) Understands familiar action words (which may be accompanied with gesture/sign/visual cue): for example, 'sit down', 'jump'.			
e) Follows routine events and activities, using non-verbal cues: for example, follows group to bathroom or sits down for story.			
f) Follow directions during play (which may be accompanied with gesture/sign/visual cue): for example, 'feed teddy'.			
g) Understands and follows simple stories read to them.			
h) Demonstrates increasing understanding of vocabulary at a two-word level (which may be accompanied with gesture/sign/visual cue): for example, understands simple instructions involving a person and an object, such as 'Get Mummy's shoes', 'Where is your coat?'			
i) Understands approximately 50 words/signs.			
Step 9 (21-25 months)	Beginning	Developing	Secure
a) Selects familiar objects by name and will go and find objects when asked, or identify objects from a group.			
b) Shows understanding of at least 15 pictorial symbols used to refer to specific routine or play activities.			
c) Understands 'who', 'what', 'where' in simple questions within the context of an activity: for example, when looking at a family photo album, the child names people when asked 'Who can you see?' or identifies named people through gesture.			
d) Understands simple questions about objects: for example, when presented with the real object or simple picture can respond correctly to questions such as 'What do we drink out of?'; 'Which one says "woof, woof"?'			
Step 10 (24-31 months)	Beginning	Developing	Secure
a) Responds appropriately to simple two-part instructions or requests within an immediate context when speech/sign/visual cues are used by the communication partner: for example, 'Get your shoes and put on your coat'.			
b) Identifies action words by pointing to the right picture: for example, 'Who's jumping?'			
c) Will point to smaller parts of the body when asked to do so: for example, chin, elbow, eyebrow.			
d) Understands at a two-word level concepts using real objects and situations: for example, size (big, little, etc.); prepositions (in, on, under); first/last or now/then.			

Communication and Language: UNDERSTANDING (RECEPTIVE)			
e) Understands an activity sequence presented on a Now/Next board.			
Step 11 (30-36 months)	Beginning	Developing	Secure
a) Retells (through words/sign/gesture) a simple past event in correct order: for example, 'went down slide, hurt finger'.			
b) Understands use of objects: for example, 'What do we use to cut things with?'; 'Which one barks?'			
c) Understands at a three-word level concepts using real objects and situations: for example, 'Teddy on the table'.			
d) Can identify picture of object at a three-word level: for example, 'Girl eating banana'.			
e) Understands objects by description: for example, 'The wet one', 'The dirty one'.			
f) Understands all pronouns: for example, 'they', 'he', 'she', 'him', 'her'.			
g) Provides appropriate information in response to 'what' and 'where' questions.			
Step 12 (35-41 months)	Beginning	Developing	Secure
a) Can give information about own life and favourite things using their preferred communication method.			
b) Answer questions more fully, providing more than one piece of information using their preferred communication method.			
c) Shows understanding of prepositions 'on top', 'behind' and 'next to' by carrying out action.			
d) Understands the activity sequence presented on a visual timetable that has three symbols/photographs: now/next/then.			
Step 13 (40-50 months)	Beginning	Developing	Secure
a) Uses language to connect ideas, explain what is happening, and anticipate what might happen next in a familiar situation using their preferred communication method.			
b) Understands 'why', 'when' and 'how' questions.			
c) Compare sizes, weights, etc. using gesture and language: 'bigger/little/smaller', 'high/low', 'tall', 'heavy'.			
d) Understands the activity sequence presented on a visual timetable that has four or more symbols/photographs.			
e) Responds to a sequence of instructions with multiple actions: for example, wash your hands then get your coats and then line up to go outside.			
f) Is able to follow a story without pictures or props.			
Step 14 (50-60 months+)	Beginning	Developing	Secure
a) Understands humour: for example, nonsense rhymes, jokes.			
b) Listens and responds to ideas expressed by others in conversation or discussion.			

Communication and Language: UNDERSTANDING (RECEPTIVE)			
c) Understands a range of complex sentence structures, including negatives, plurals, and tenses.			
EARLY LEARNING GOAL	<p>Using their preferred communication method the child will: Listen attentively and respond to what they hear with relevant questions, comments, and actions when being read to and during whole class discussions and small group interactions. Make comments about what they have heard and ask questions to clarify their understanding. Hold conversation when engaged in back-and-forth exchanges with adults and peers.</p>		

Communication and Language: SPEAKING (EXPRESSIVE)			
For specific support for a child please contact your local Speech and Language Therapy service . For guidance regarding activities to support the development of communication and language skills refer to the Leeds Community Healthcare NHS Trust - Speech and Language Therapy Toolkit .			
Step 1 (0-3 months)		Beginning	Developing
a) Cries to express needs: for example, when hungry or in discomfort.			
b) Stops crying when picked up.			
c) Makes sounds such as gurgles and coos.			
Step 2 (2-5 months)		Beginning	Developing
a) Responds when talked to by a familiar adult: for example, moves arms/legs/body, changes facial expression, moves mouth, makes sounds.			
b) Uses different sounds/cries to show hunger, tiredness, pain.			
c) Communicates needs and feelings in a variety of ways including crying, gurgling, babbling, and squealing.			
d) Produces and copies non-speech sounds: for example, coos, raspberries, effort grunts, shrieks, squeals.			
e) Gurgles to get attention.			
f) Smiles at non-moving object or picture.			
g) Smiles at another person.			
h) Smiles more often to familiar rather than unfamiliar people.			
i) Laughs to express pleasure.			
Step 3 (4-7 months)		Beginning	Developing
a) Uses voice, gesture, eye contact, and facial expression to make contact with people and keep their attention.			

Communication and Language: SPEAKING (EXPRESSIVE)			
b) Begins to develop and use the vowel sounds of the language used at home.			
c) Babbles by repeating a series of the same sounds (reduplicated babbling): for example, 'ba-ba-ba', 'ma-ma-ma'.			
d) Begins to develop and use some consonant sounds: for example, 'g-g', 'mmm', 'h', 'd-d'.			
e) Makes sounds for pleasure: for example, vocalises with a tuneful voice to self when lying in cot or at play.			
f) Uses voice or gesture to refuse: for example, pushes object away, shaking head.			
Step 4 (6-10 months)	Beginning	Developing	Secure
a) Uses voice or gesture to: attract attention, for example, by holding up objects, waving arms; ask for things, for example, reaching, opening and shutting hands, hands raised to indicate 'up'.			
b) Uses voice, gesture or actions to join in with a familiar rhyme or game.			
c) Waves bye-bye through copying: for example, copies others when they wave to them.			
d) Communicates friendliness or annoyance through vocalisation.			
e) Voice starts to have the tone and rhythm (intonation patterns and stresses of familiar phrases) of the language spoken at home (the first language).			
f) Vocal babble is increasingly speech-like, containing consonant and vowel sounds: for example, 'baba', 'gaga'.			
g) Copies what adults do, taking 'turns' in conversations (through babbling) and activities. Tries to copy adult speech and lip movements: for example, putting lips together for /m/, or rounding lips for /oo/.			
h) Begins to use varied double syllable sounds. For example: 'dadi', 'babu', or uses a variety of syllables in continued babbling, such as 'badago' (variegated babble).			
i) Consistently uses simple sounds or gesture to mean a particular thing: for example, 'da' for daddy.			
Step 5 (9-13 months)	Beginning	Developing	Secure
a) Begins to point to objects, self, and others close by using index finger to make a request or share an interest.			
b) Uses gesture and/or voice to respond.			
c) Uses gesture and/or voice to direct attention to objects and people as well as self.			
d) Makes it clear through gesture and/or voice when they want something to happen again: for example, to play a game again.			
e) Copies gestures as part of games and familiar routines: for example, clapping hands, waving 'bye', blowing kisses, open hands for 'where is it' or 'all gone'.			
f) Communicates for a range of different purposes: for example, to greet, to request, to protest, to label.			
g) Can choose between two presented objects using gesture, pointing or words/sign: "Do you want the ball or the car?"			

Communication and Language: SPEAKING (EXPRESSIVE)			
h) Produces symbolic noises and baby words spontaneously: for example, 'aahh' when cuddling toy, 'brmm' for car.			
i) Vocalises in attempts to copy words and sounds.			
j) Imitates familiar consonants and vowel sounds associated with frequently used toys and/or pictures: for example, 'baa-baa' for a sheep, 'moo-moo' for a cow.			
Step 6 (12-16 months)	Beginning	Developing	Secure
a) Points to objects in the environment to direct adult attention and share interest; may also vocalise or make eye contact.			
b) Points to or reaches towards desired objects to request them; may vocalise or make eye contact when doing this.			
c) Imitates signs/spoken words and sounds.			
d) Asks for games using words/signs/gesture: for example, says 'boo' or hides face in hands for peek-a-boo.			
e) Creates personal words/signs/gesture as they begin to develop language.			
f) Speaks/signs/gestures to name favourite items: for example, 'bubbles', 'ball', 'cat'.			
g) Uses words/signs/gestures to make requests: for example, 'drink', 'more'.			
h) Waves 'bye-bye' spontaneously.			
i) Babbles freely when alone or playing and increasingly experiments with sounds.			
j) Uses a wide range of consonant and vowel sounds in babble/jargon. (/p/ /h/ /d/ /b/ (stops) are the most common sounds used in first words, such as 'bibi' for biscuit.)			
k) Voice starts to have the tone and rhythm (patterns and stresses of familiar phrases) of the language spoken at home even though individual words may not be clear.			
l) Uses different sounds/actions instead of words to represent different objects: for example, 'brmm' for car.			
m) Can imitate sounds and/or gestures that are not part of their repertoire: for example, watches an adult carefully and then imitates something they have not done before.			
n) Without prompting, uses approximately five specific single signs/words/gestures with meaning.			
Step 7 (15-19 months)	Beginning	Developing	Secure
a) Beginning to develop expressive language at a one-word level: for example, uses at least 10 words/signs.			
b) Child consistently uses at least 10 Objects-of-Reference to express a need or want: for example, presents a cup/bottle to indicate need of a drink or a ball to indicate a want to play a ball-game.			
c) Uses verbs and adjective-type words: for example, 'go', 'sleep', 'hot', 'bit'.			
d) Uses words/signs/gestures to comment on what's happening: for example, says/signs 'bird' if sees one in the garden.			

Communication and Language: SPEAKING (EXPRESSIVE)			
e) Has favourite phrases/signs that they use often: for example, 'that one'.			
f) Signs/sings/acts along with favourite action rhyme; words/signs may be unclear.			
g) Comments on something that has just happened: for example, says/signs/gestures 'doggy' if saw a dog on the way home, or 'fall down' if blocks have just crashed over.			
h) Uses approximate forms of words to communicate: for example, 'mu' for more, 'din' for drink.			
i) Uses a wide range of physical expressions/intonation patterns and rhythms to reflect mood: for example, excitement.			
Step 8 (18-22 months)	Beginning	Developing	Secure
a) Copies and uses voice/signs spontaneously as part of games/familiar routines: for example, 'bye-bye', 'all gone'.			
b) Joins in very familiar nursery rhymes and action songs: for example, by vocalising key words or sounds and/or using own versions of actions or approximations to actions linked to the rhyme.			
c) Uses a mixture of words/vocalisations and/or sign/gesture to accompany play.			
d) Uses up to 20 words/signs: Names things and people within familiar environments; comments on what's happening; responds to adult's questions or comments; protests; expresses likes and dislikes; describes actions.			
e) Names pictures of common objects when pointed to.			
f) Uses up to 20 photographs to refer to a wanted activity/object.			
g) Spontaneously requests a wanted item (for example: snack, or play activity) using their preferred communication method. This could be through word, sign, gesture or single symbol exchange.			
h) Joins in simple narratives by answering questions about things that are very familiar using their preferred communication method: for example, answers 'shoes' when asked 'What goes on your feet?' or fills in gap, such as 'lets put on your...'			
i) Beginning to develop expressive language at a two-word level by joining two words/signs: for example, 'Daddy gone'.			
j) Continues to use simplified/approximated versions of words/signs: for example, 'goggy' for dog, child repeatedly claps hands for 'mummy' rather than the formal Makaton sign.			
k) Imitates words by reproducing some speech sounds and the correct number of syllables.			
l) Talks to self continuously when playing, though this may not be readily understood by others.			
m) Produces several words/signs/gestures recognisable to family members.			
n) Begins to use their preferred communication method to refer to people and things that are not present.			
Step 9 (21-25 months)	Beginning	Developing	Secure
a) Rapid growth in expressive vocabulary: at least 50 words/signs.			
b) Points to and names/signs simple pictures.			

Communication and Language: SPEAKING (EXPRESSIVE)			
c) Can use at least 20 pictorial symbols to refer to a wanted activity/object.			
d) Using their preferred communication method, travels and persists in an effort to gain an adult's attention in order to gain a wanted item (for example: snack, or play activity) or express a need (for example, to attend to a grazed knee).			
e) Combines words/signs into familiar phrases in an appropriate context: for example, 'Daddy come', 'There it is', 'Me got one.'			
f) Uses 'me' to refer to self.			
g) Asks simple questions using speech/sign with quizzical face.			
h) Indicates 'no' through gestures, signs or speech.			
i) Talks aloud and/or signs when playing with others.			
j) Says/signs 'please' and 'thank you' with prompts.			
k) Uses their preferred communication method to alert an adult to their needs: for example, 'hungry', 'thirsty', 'help', etc.			
l) Tries saying the actual word, accurately signs or makes a close match: for example, 'um-beya' for umbrella.			
m) Majority of single words or short phrases are intelligible to unfamiliar listeners.			
n) Repeat words or phrases from familiar stories using their preferred communication method.			
Step 10 (24-31 months)	Beginning	Developing	Secure
a) Uses words/signs during play and almost all activities, and to ask and find out about things.			
b) Spontaneously requests a wanted item from a choice array of two using their preferred communication method: for example, using word, sign, gesture or a symbol exchange approach.			
c) Answers simple questions using their preferred communication method: for example, 'Where's Mum?'			
d) Uses a variety of simple questions using their preferred communication method: 'what?', 'where?', 'who?'			
e) Uses several pronouns correctly using their preferred communication method: 'I', 'me', 'you'.			
f) Uses 10-15 verbs using their preferred communication method: for example, 'eat', 'drink', 'sleep', 'wash', 'play', 'finish'.			
g) Describes things using their preferred communication method: for example, 'It's wet', 'It's too hot'.			
h) Uses over 200 words/signs.			
i) Uses appropriate intonation to ask questions.			
j) Has a sing-song quality to speech that adds to expression/meaning.			
k) Easily understood by familiar people through their use of speech/sign/gesture/visual communication methods.			

Communication and Language: SPEAKING (EXPRESSIVE)			
l) Learns new words/signs/symbols very rapidly and is able to use them when communicating with other people.			
Step 11 (30-36 months)	Beginning	Developing	Secure
a) Beginning to develop expressive language at a three-word level: for example, uses longer sentences of three to four words/signs, such as 'Mummy go shops now.'			
b) Retells a simple past event in correct order: for example, 'went down slide, hurt finger'.			
c) Gives information about own life and favourite things using their preferred communication method.			
d) Uses language to share feeling, experiences and thoughts using their preferred communication method.			
e) Asks increasingly detailed questions to find out information.			
f) Answers questions more fully, providing more than one piece of information, using their preferred communication method.			
g) Holds a conversation, jumping from topic to topic.			
h) Uses words/signs at a three-word level for: Giving reasons; Saying what they want; Playing with others; Directing others; Telling others about things.			
i) Spontaneously requests a wanted item from a choice array of three or more using their preferred communication method: for example, using sign, choice board, or a symbol exchange approach.			
j) Retells a simple story, recalling events and characters, not necessarily in the correct sequence, using their preferred communication method.			
k) Beginning to use word endings: for example, going , finished .			
l) Realises the correct volume to talk at: not too loud or quiet.			
m) Likes saying learnt expressions, such as name, age or address.			
Step 12 (35-41 months)	Beginning	Developing	Secure
a) Beginning to develop expressive language at a four-word level.			
b) Spontaneously requests a wanted item from a choice array of at least 20 using their preferred communication method: for example, through the use of a communication board.			
c) Completes a simple sentence constructed from visual symbols and presents to their communication partner in order to gain own needs/wants.			
d) Retells a simple familiar story recalling the correct sequence using their preferred communication method.			
Step 13 (40-50 months)	Beginning	Developing	Secure
a) Easily understood by a range of people: for example, uses intonation, rhythm and phrasing to make meaning clear.			

Communication and Language: SPEAKING (EXPRESSIVE)				
b) Begins to use language for pretending and organising: for example, 'You be the mum and I be the baby.'				
c) When using speech, connects ideas, explains what is happening and anticipates what might happen next, recalls and relives past experiences: for example, using 'and' and 'because' to link ideas.				
d) Beginning to use a range of tenses but continues to make errors in language: for example, 'runned' instead of 'ran'				
e) Using talk in pretending that objects stand for something else in play: for example, 'This box is my castle.'				
f) Spontaneously retells a story or event using their preferred communication method.				
Step 14 (50-60 months+)		Beginning	Developing	Secure
a) Extends vocabulary especially by grouping and naming and exploring the meaning and sounds of new words.				
b) Uses language in play to imagine and recreate roles and experiences they hear in their community and culture.				
c) Links statements and sticks to a main theme or intention.				
d) Uses their preferred communication method to organise, sequence, and clarify thinking, ideas, feelings, and events.				
EARLY LEARNING GOAL	<p>Using their preferred communication method the child will:</p> <p>Participate in small group, class, and one-to-one discussions, offering their own ideas, using recently introduced vocabulary.</p> <p>Offer explanations for why things might happen, making use of recently introduced vocabulary from stories, non-fiction, rhymes and poems when appropriate.</p> <p>Express their ideas and feelings about their experiences using full sentences, including use of past, present, and future tenses, and making use of conjunctions, with modelling and support.</p>			

Physical Development: GROSS MOTOR SKILLS

It is essential to recognise the impact of gross motor development on a child's readiness to engage in fine motor activities. Prior to focusing on fine motor skills, we need to ensure children have time and space to consolidate and embed their large-scale movements. For specific advice regarding a child's physical development please contact a [health-care professional](#).

Step 1 (0-3 months)	Beginning	Developing	Secure
a) Makes smooth movements with arms and legs, which gradually become more controlled.			
b) Presses down foot/straightens body when held standing on a hard surface.			
c) Lifts head clear of ground.			
d) Can lift head while on tummy and move it from side to side, gradually developing ability to hold own head up for longer.			
e) Turns head to side when placed on tummy.			
Step 2 (2-5 months)	Beginning	Developing	Secure
a) Able to control head when supported in an upright position; head does not flop forwards or backwards.			
b) When lying on tummy, lifts head up and uses forearms to support.			
c) Rolls over from back to side, gradually spending longer on side, waving upper leg before returning to back.			
d) Sits with support (such as, cushions) and when held in adult's hands.			
e) When lying on tummy becomes able to lift first head and then chest, supporting self with forearms.			
Step 3 (4-7 months)	Beginning	Developing	Secure
a) When lying on back, plays with hands and grasps feet, alternating mouthing hands/feet, with focused gaze on them.			
b) Develops roll from back through to front, gradually becoming happy to spend longer on tummy, as able to lift head for longer.			
c) When lying on tummy can lift head and chest, and support self with straight arms and flat hands.			
d) When supported in sitting can turn head from side to side.			
e) When in supported sitting can pass objects from one hand to another.			
Step 4 (6-10 months)	Beginning	Developing	Secure
a) When sitting can lean forward to pick up small toys.			
b) Stretches out with one hand to grasp offered toy.			
c) Sits unsupported on the floor, leaving hands free to manipulate objects with both hands.			

Physical Development: GROSS MOTOR SKILLS			
d) Pulls to standing from crawling, holding on to furniture or person for support.			
e) Can move from a sitting position to hands and knees (crawl position).			
f) Lifts items to mouth to orally explore them.			
g) Moves around on the floor by wriggling on tummy, often moving backwards before going forwards.			
Step 5 (9-13 months)	Beginning	Developing	Secure
a) Can reach and grasp a moving object by moving towards where the object will go.			
b) Picks up larger objects: for example, teddy or a ball.			
c) Throws and/or drops toys deliberately.			
d) Begins to crawl in different ways and directions: crawls, bottom shuffles, or rolls continuously to move around.			
e) Kneels up to furniture.			
f) Becomes adept at changing position from crawling to sitting in order to stop, pick up, handle, and investigate objects.			
g) Starts to throw and release objects overarm.			
Step 6 (12-16 months)	Beginning	Developing	Secure
a) Pulls self to standing against furniture and can lower self-back again.			
b) Walks around furniture lifting one foot and stepping sideways (cruising).			
c) Walks with one or two hands held by adult.			
d) Takes first few steps: feet wide apart, uneven steps, arms raised for balance.			
e) Fits themselves into spaces, such as tunnels, dens, and large boxes, and moves around in them.			
Step 7 (15-19 months)	Beginning	Developing	Secure
a) Walks with shorter steps and legs closer together; no longer needs to hold arms up for balance.			
b) Walks up steps holding hand of adult.			
c) Comes downstairs backwards on knees (crawling) or slides on bottom.			
d) Starts walking independently on firm surfaces and later on uneven surfaces.			
e) Pushes, pulls, lifts, and carries objects, moving them around and placing them with intent.			

Physical Development: GROSS MOTOR SKILLS			
Step 8 (18-22 months)	Beginning	Developing	Secure
a) Runs without bumping into obstacles.			
b) Sits on small tricycle, moving it with feet pushing against the floor.			
c) Can kick a large ball.			
d) Gets onto child's chair without assistance, either backwards or sideways.			
Step 9 (21-25 months)	Beginning	Developing	Secure
a) Runs safely on whole foot, stopping and starting easily.			
b) Squats steadily to rest or play with object on the ground and rises to feet without using hands.			
c) Walks upstairs facing forwards holding rail or hand of adult, with both feet onto a step at a time.			
Step 10 (24-31 months)	Beginning	Developing	Secure
a) Pushes and pulls large toys, such as prams, but has difficulty steering around obstacles.			
b) Climbs play climbing equipment with confidence and increasing skill.			
c) Begins to walk, run, and climb on different levels and surfaces.			
d) Walks upstairs independently using banister rail or wall for support.			
e) Can walk considerable distances with purpose.			
f) Sits confidently on a chair with both feet on the ground.			
Step 11 (30-36 months)	Beginning	Developing	Secure
a) Kicks a stationary ball with either foot with increasing force and accuracy.			
b) Rides tricycle using pedals.			
c) Climbs up and downstairs by placing both feet on each step while holding handrail for support.			
d) Walks downstairs safely, two feet to each step while carrying a toy.			
e) Can balance on one foot or in a squat momentarily, shifting body weight to improve stability.			
f) Spins self, rolls, and independently use ropes and swings.			
g) Starts to catch a large ball by using two hands and their chest to trap it.			

Physical Development: GROSS MOTOR SKILLS			
h) Uses wheeled toys with increasing skill, such as pedalling, balancing, holding handlebars, and sitting stride.			
i) May be beginning to show preference for dominant hand and/or leg/foot.			
Step 12 (35-41 months)		Beginning	Developing
a) Jumps into the air with both feet leaving the floor and can jump forward a small distance.			
b) Walks downstairs or slopes whilst carrying a small object, maintaining balance and stability.			
Step 13 (40-50 months)		Beginning	Developing
a) Runs with spatial awareness and negotiates space successfully, adjusting speed or direction to avoid obstacles.			
b) Can grasp and release with two hands to throw and catch a large ball, beanbag or an object.			
c) Climbs stairs and steps (using alternate feet, one step at a time), and moves across climbing equipment, maintaining balance using hands and body to stabilise.			
d) Uses large-muscle movements to wave flags and streamers, paint and make marks.			
e) Jumps off an object and lands appropriately using hands, arms, and body to stabilise and balance.			
f) Chooses to move in a range of ways, moving freely and with confidence, making changes to body shape, position, and pace of movement: for example, slithering, shuffling, rolling, crawling, walking, running, jumping, skipping, sliding, and hopping.			
g) Experiments with different ways of moving, testing out ideas and adapting movements to reduce risk: for example, decides if they will crawl, walk, or run across a plank depending on its width/length.			
Step 14 (50-60 months+)		Beginning	Developing
a) Shows increasing control over an object in pushing, patting, throwing, catching, or kicking it.			
b) Travels around, under, over, and through balancing and climbing equipment with confidence.			
c) Progress towards a more fluent style of moving with developing control and grace: for example, rolling, crawling, walking, jumping, running, hopping, skipping, and climbing.			
d) Uses their core muscle strength to achieve a good posture when sitting at a table or sitting on the floor.			
e) Confidently and safely uses a range of large and small apparatus indoors and outside, alone and in a group.			
f) Develops confidence, competence, and accuracy when engaging in activities that involve a ball, including throwing, catching, kicking, passing, batting and aiming.			
EARLY LEARNING GOAL	Negotiates space and obstacles safely, with consideration for themselves and others. Demonstrates strength, balance, and co-ordination when playing. Moves energetically, such as running, jumping, dancing, hopping, skipping and climbing.		

Physical Development: FINE MOTOR SKILLS

It is essential to recognise the impact of gross motor development on a child's readiness to engage in fine motor activities. Prior to focusing on fine motor skills, we need to ensure children have time and space to consolidate and embed their large-scale movements. For specific advice regarding a child's physical development please contact a [health-care professional](#).

Step 1 (0-3 months)	Beginning	Developing	Secure
a) Closes hand firmly around object placed in palm.			
Step 2 (2-5 months)	Beginning	Developing	Secure
a) Explores hands and fingers: for example, watches them, presses hands together, clasps and unclasp hands.			
b) Uses movement and senses to focus on, reach for, and grasp objects.			
c) Repeats actions that have an effect: for example, kicking or batting a mobile to create movement.			
Step 3 (4-7 months)	Beginning	Developing	Secure
a) Explores objects with mouth, often picking up an object and holding it to mouth for lips and tongue to explore (mouthing).			
b) Persistently and deliberately reaches out for objects.			
c) Uses whole hand to hold an object (palmar grasp).			
d) Follows and tracks a sound or moving object, moving head and eyes.			
Step 4 (6-10 months)	Beginning	Developing	Secure
a) Passes toys from one hand to the other.			
b) Can release an object from their grasp on a hard surface.			
c) Can place the object down deliberately.			
d) Looks at and pokes small objects with index finger.			
e) Watches toy or object as it falls down.			
f) Eyes now move together to look at people or objects. Watches and follows people or objects around.			
g) Releases objects and hands them to another person or drops them.			
h) Picks up things between thumb and fingers with an immature pincer grasp.			
Step 5 (9-13 months)	Beginning	Developing	Secure
a) Holds objects in both hands and bring them together in the middle.			

Physical Development: FINE MOTOR SKILLS			
b) Uses index finger to point at objects, sharing attention with adult.			
c) Puts toys and objects in and out of containers.			
d) Picks up small objects easily between thumb and index finger using a pincer grip.			
e) Removes pieces from inset puzzle and large pegs from a peg board with either hand.			
f) Helps turn pages of a book.			
g) Holds pen or crayon using a palmar grasp and spontaneously makes scribble marks.			
Step 6 (12-16 months)	Beginning	Developing	Secure
a) Builds a tower of 2 blocks.			
b) Turns over container to tip out contents.			
c) Picks up objects in palmar grasp and shakes, waves, bangs, pulls, and tugs them in between two hands, and looks at them.			
d) Holds pen or crayon using a whole hand (palmar) grasp and scribbles with different strokes.			
e) Enjoys finger and toe rhymes and games.			
f) Manipulates objects using hands singly and together: for example, squeezing water out of a sponge.			
Step 7 (15-19 months)	Beginning	Developing	Secure
a) Builds a tower of 3 or more blocks.			
b) Fits round shape into puzzle or posting box.			
c) Turns knobs and removes easy screw lids.			
d) Watches small moving toy/object at 3 metres or more away.			
e) Beginning to show hand preference (not established).			
Step 8 (18-22 months)	Beginning	Developing	Secure
a) Builds a tower of 6 blocks.			
b) Threads large beads onto firm cord, stick, or pipe cleaner.			
c) Holds pen or pencil in the middle using thumb and fingers.			
d) Uses whole arm when mark making.			

Physical Development: FINE MOTOR SKILLS			
e) When holding crayons, chalks, etc., makes connections between their movements and the marks they make: draws vertical lines; produces circular scribble; produces side-to-side and to-and-fro scribble.			
f) Participates in finger and action rhymes, songs, and games, imitating the movements and anticipating actions.			
g) Hands start to operate independently during a task so that each hand is used to do something different at the same time: for example, holding a block in one hand and steadying the other block with the other hand.			
h) Looks closely at small items and creatures, and can also see items at substantial distance, comfortably changing focus from one to another.			
Step 9 (21-25 months)	Beginning	Developing	Secure
a) Fits smaller shapes and objects into holes during posting activities.			
b) Threads large beads onto floppier cords: for example, washing line/shoelace.			
c) Scans pages and looks at books studying each picture for details.			
d) Turns pages in a book, sometimes several at once.			
e) Places objects down neatly and precisely.			
f) Holds a pencil in a developing tripod grip between thumb and two fingers; no longer using whole hand.			
g) Picks up tiny objects accurately and quickly using pincer grip.			
h) Produces lines that intersect; beginning to make cross and grid-like patterns.			
i) Scribble writes, including 'V' shape and vertical lines.			
Step 10 (24-31 months)	Beginning	Developing	Secure
a) Builds a tower of more than 7 blocks.			
b) Fits small shapes and objects into holes during posting activities.			
c) Screws and unscrews jar lids, nuts and bolts, etc.			
d) Fits round, square, and triangle shapes into a puzzle and posting box.			
e) Shows increasing control in holding, using, and manipulating a range of tools and objects, such as tambourines, jugs, hammers, and mark making tools.			
f) Draws a simple face: for example, circle for the head with dots/dashes/lines for eyes, nose, and mouth.			
Step 11 (30-36 months)	Beginning	Developing	Secure
a) Builds a tower of ten or more blocks.			

Physical Development: FINE MOTOR SKILLS			
b) Imitates making a train of cubes.			
c) Holds books the correct way up and turns pages one at a time.			
d) Cuts paper with scissors, making one or two snips, although hand position may not be quite correct.			
e) Can undo large buttons.			
f) Holds pencil near its tip between first two fingers and thumb and uses it with good control to draw.			
g) Starts to copy some simple horizontal and vertical letters and numbers: for example, E, F, H, T, L and 1, 7, 4.			
Step 12 (35-41 months)	Beginning	Developing	Secure
a) Manipulates a range of tools and equipment in one hand: for example, paintbrushes, scissors, hairbrushes, toothbrush, etc.			
b) Shows a preference for dominant hand: note which one, if any.			
c) Creates lines and circles, pivoting from the shoulder and elbow.			
d) Begins to use anti-clockwise movement and retrace vertical lines to create letters and numbers: for example, m, o, a, 6, 9.			
e) Makes diagonal patterns.			
f) Starts to make recognisable 'S' and '8' type shapes.			
Step 13 (40-50 months)	Beginning	Developing	Secure
a) Uses simple tools to effect changes to materials.			
b) Handles tools, objects, construction, and malleable materials safely and with increasing control and intention.			
c) Begins to form recognisable letters independently.			
d) Lessening of arm movement and greater use of hand/wrist movement to write.			
Step 14 (50-60 months+)	Beginning	Developing	Secure
a) Uses a pencil and holds it effectively to form recognisable letters, most of which are formed correctly.			
b) Uses ideas involving fitting, overlapping, in and out of enclosures, grids, and sun-like shapes.			
EARLY LEARNING GOAL	Holds a pencil effectively in preparation for fluent writing - using the tripod grip in most cases. Uses a range of small tools, including scissors, paintbrushes, and cutlery. Begins to show accuracy and care when drawing.		

Literacy: COMPREHENSION			
Step 1 (0-3 months)	Beginning	Developing	Secure
a) Can move eyes to look at different parts of objects and pictures.			
b) Looks at pictures and moving objects for more than 5 seconds.			
c) Interested in new experiences: for example, shows renewed interest if you present a different toy or book.			
d) Notices and engages with sounds and images in the environment.			
Step 2 (2-5 months)	Beginning	Developing	Secure
a) Looks from one object to another and back again: 'shifting visual attention'. Objects may be moving or still.			
Step 3 (4-7 months)	Beginning	Developing	Secure
a) Enjoys songs and rhymes, tuning in and paying attention: for example, 'Round and round the garden'.			
b) Plays with and explores objects/pictures by touching them.			
c) Plays with and explores objects/pictures by looking at them.			
d) Plays with and explores objects/books by placing them in their mouth and/or smelling them.			
e) Plays with and explores objects by listening to sounds made.			
Step 4 (6-10 months)	Beginning	Developing	Secure
a) Mouths books, turns over several pages at once; stops momentarily at page that catches eye.			
b) Enjoys looking at books and other printed or digital materials with familiar people and being read to.			
Step 5 (9-13 months)	Beginning	Developing	Secure
a) Follows with gaze when an adult directs attention to an object/picture by looking and pointing.			
b) Begins to point to objects, pictures, and people using index finger.			
c) Looks at pictures in books with interest without needing adult input.			
d) Responds to sounds in the environment such as cars, sirens, and birds.			
Step 6 (12-16 months)	Beginning	Developing	Secure
a) Enjoys listening to the same story over and over again.			
b) Enjoys picture books and simple repetitive stories: for example, lift the flap books.			

Literacy: COMPREHENSION			
Step 7 (15-19 months)	Beginning	Developing	Secure
a) Enjoys nursery rhymes and demonstrates listening by trying to join in with actions and vocalisations/signs.			
b) Identifies many objects and pictures by pointing when asked questions: for example, 'Where's the ball?'			
c) Interested in books and rhymes and may have favourites.			
d) Understands and follows simple and familiar stories read to them.			
Step 8 (18-22 months)	Beginning	Developing	Secure
a) Joins in with actions and sounds in familiar songs and rhymes; words/signs/gestures becoming clearer.			
b) Shows sustained interest in looking at pictures and books with adult.			
Step 9 (21-25 months)	Beginning	Developing	Secure
a) Turns pages in a book, sometimes several at once.			
b) Scans pages and looks at books, studying each picture for details.			
c) Has favourite books and seeks them out to share with an adult, another child, or to look at alone.			
d) Repeats words and phrases from familiar stories using speech/sign/gesture: for example, 'Dear Zoo'.			
e) Using their preferred communication method, fills in the missing word or phrase in a known rhyme, story or game.			
Step 10 (24-31 months)	Beginning	Developing	Secure
a) Shows sustained interest in picture books.			
b) Shares books with adult or other child, making comments using their preferred communication method.			
Step 11 (30-36 months)	Beginning	Developing	Secure
a) Holds books the correct way up and turns pages one at a time.			
b) Using their preferred communication method, joins in with simple repeated refrains and phrases in rhymes and stories.			
c) Shows interest in illustrations, print in books, and print in the environment.			
Step 12 (35-41 months)	Beginning	Developing	Secure
a) Takes part in reading by filling in words and phrases using their preferred communication method.			
b) Listens to and joins in with stories and poems when reading and sharing a story with an adult or in a small group using their preferred communication method.			

Literacy: COMPREHENSION			
c) Anticipates key events and repeated phrases in stories and rhymes.			
d) Begins to be aware of the way stories are structured and tell their own stories using their preferred communication method.			
e) Shows interest in illustrations and words in print and digital books and words in the environment.			
f) Shows an interest in numerals in the environment.			
Step 13 (40-50 months)	Beginning	Developing	Secure
a) Looks at and enjoys print and digital books independently.			
b) Knows information can be relayed in the form of print, signs, and symbols in various forms: for example, printed materials, digital screens, and environmental print.			
c) Listens to stories with increasing attention and recall.			
d) Shows an understanding of some elements of stories: for example, main character, sequence of events, and story beginnings and endings.			
e) Using their preferred communication method, retells stories in the correct sequence, drawing on language patterns of stories, such as 'Once upon a time'.			
f) Can identify/name the different parts of a book: for example, front cover, title, author, contents page, etc.			
g) Begins to navigate apps and websites on digital media, using icons to select apps and drop-down menus to select websites.			
Step 14 (50-60 months+)	Beginning	Developing	Secure
a) Using their preferred communication method, engages in extended conversations about stories: for example, discusses main story settings, events, and principal characters, and may be able to suggest how story will end.			
b) Uses vocabulary and forms of speech that are increasingly influenced by their experiences of books using their preferred communication method.			
c) Enjoys an increasing range of print and digital books, both fiction and non-fiction.			
d) In their play, re-enacts and reinvents stories they have heard using their preferred communication method.			
e) Engages with books and other reading materials at an increasingly deeper level, sometimes drawing on their phonic knowledge to decode words, and their knowledge of language structure, subject knowledge and illustrations to interpret text.			
EARLY LEARNING GOAL	Using their preferred communication method the child will: Demonstrate understanding of what has been read to them by retelling stories and narratives using their own words/signs and recently introduced vocabulary. Anticipate, where appropriate, key events in stories. Use and understand recently introduced vocabulary during discussions about stories, non-fiction, rhymes and poems, and during role play.		

Literacy: WORD READING			
Step 1 (0-3 months) to Step 8 (18-22 months)			
See Literacy: Comprehension.			
Step 9 (21-25 months)	Beginning	Developing	Secure
a) Spontaneously imitates songs and rhymes using speech/sign: for example, singing whilst playing.			
b) Repeats words and phrases from familiar stories using speech/sign/gesture: for example, 'Dear Zoo'.			
c) Using their preferred communication method, fills in the missing word or phrase in a known rhyme, story or game: for example, 'Humpty Dumpty sat on a...'			
Step 10 (24-31 months)	Beginning	Developing	Secure
a) Shares books with adult or other child, making comments about the events and pictures using their preferred communication method.			
Step 11 (30-36months)	Beginning	Developing	Secure
a) Enjoys rhyming and rhythmic activities: for example, 'Silly Soup'.			
b) Using their preferred communication method, joins in with simple repeated refrains and phrases in rhymes and stories.			
c) Shows interest in illustrations, print in books, and print in the environment: for example, the first letter of their name, a bus or door number, or a familiar logo/app.			
Step 12 (35-41 months)	Beginning	Developing	Secure
a) Takes part in reading by filling in words and phrases using their preferred communication method.			
b) Shows awareness of rhyme and alliteration: for example, can pick out words that rhyme and continues a rhyming string.			
c) Recognises rhythm in spoken words: for example, count or clap syllables in a word.			
Step 13 (40-50 months)	Beginning	Developing	Secure
a) Recognises words with the same initial consonant sound: for example, the phoneme /d/ in 'daddy' and 'dog'.			
b) Knows that print carries meaning and, in English, is read from left to right and top to bottom.			
c) Knows information can be relayed in the form of print, signs, and symbols in various forms: for example, printed materials, digital screens, and environmental print.			
d) Recognises familiar words and signs such as own name and advertising logos.			
e) Makes attempts at reading familiar words in picture books using their preferred communication method.			

Literacy: WORD READING			
f)	Reads individual letters (grapheme) by saying sounds (phoneme) or fingerspell for them: for example, when the child sees the grapheme 't' they say the phoneme /t/ or fingerspell - this is known as a grapheme-phoneme correspondence (GPC).		
Step 14 (50-60 months)		Beginning	Developing
a)	Using their preferred communication method, can segment sounds (phonemes) in simple words and blend them together and knows which letters (graphemes) represent some of them: for example, when reading aloud the word 'cat', sounds out the phonemes /c/ /a/ /t/ and knows that these sounds can be written down as the graphemes 'c' 'a' 't'.		
b)	Blends sounds (phonemes) into words so they can read short words made up of known letter-sound correspondences (GPCs): for example, fluently sounds out the blends in the word 'stop', 'tree', etc.		
c)	Using their preferred communication method, reads simple phrases and sentences made up of words with known letter-sound correspondences and a few exception words (words containing unusual GPCs), such as 'go', 'he', 'is', etc.		
d)	Using their preferred communication method, can read-out words that rhyme and continues a rhyming string: for example, 'cat', 'mat', 'hat', 'sat', etc.		
e)	Reads some letter groups that each represent one sound and say sounds for them: for example, reads the following graphemes 'th', 'sh', 'ch', 'ee', 'igh', etc. and says the corresponding sound, or phoneme (GPC).		
f)	Using their preferred communication method, reads a few common exception words matched to school's phonic programme: for example, 'said', 'were', 'do'.		
EARLY LEARNING GOAL	Using their preferred communication method the child will: Say/sign a sound for each letter in the alphabet and at least 10 digraphs. Read words consistent with their phonic knowledge by sound blending. Read aloud simple sentences and books that are consistent with their phonic knowledge including some common exception words.		

Literacy: WRITING			
Step 1 (0-3 months)		Beginning	Developing
a)	Makes movements with arms and legs, which gradually become more controlled.		
b)	Looks steadily at things for short periods (5 seconds or more).		
c)	Closes hand firmly around object placed in palm.		
Step 2 (2-5 months)		Beginning	Developing
a)	Explores hands and fingers: for example, watches them, presses hands together, clasps and unclasp hands.		
b)	Uses movement and senses to focus on, reach for, and grasp objects.		
c)	Repeats actions that have an effect: for example, kicking or batting a mobile to create movement.		

Literacy: WRITING

Literacy: WRITING			
Step 3 (4-7 months)	Beginning	Developing	Secure
a) Persistently and deliberately reaches out for objects.			
b) Uses whole hand to hold objects (palmar grasp).			
Step 4 (6-10 months)	Beginning	Developing	Secure
a) Discovers mark making: for example, noticing that trailing a finger through spilt juice changes it.			
b) Picks up things between thumb and fingers with an immature pincer grasp.			
Step 5 (9-13 months)	Beginning	Developing	Secure
a) Holds pen or crayon using a palmar grasp and spontaneously makes scribble marks.			
b) Picks up small objects easily between thumb and index finger using a pincer grasp.			
Step 6 (12-16 months)	Beginning	Developing	Secure
a) Holds pen or crayon using whole hand (palmar) grasp and scribbles with different strokes.			
b) Enjoys the sensory experience of making marks in food, damp sand, water, mud, paste or paint.			
c) Begins to understand the cause and effect of their actions in mark making.			
Step 7 (15-19 months)	Beginning	Developing	Secure
a) Explores and experiments with a range of media: for example, paint, dough, paper, music-making objects, etc.			
b) Beginning to show hand preference (not established).			
c) Scribbles spontaneously and makes strokes and dots on paper, enjoying the sensory feeling of making marks.			
Step 8 (18-22 months)	Beginning	Developing	Secure
a) Holds pen or pencil in the middle using thumb and fingers.			
b) Uses whole arm when mark making.			
c) When holding crayons, chalks, etc., makes connections between their movements and the marks they make: draws vertical lines; produces circular scribble; produces side-to-side and to-and-fro scribble.			
d) Knows that the marks they make are of value.			
Step 9 (21-25 months)	Beginning	Developing	Secure
a) Holds a pencil in a developing tripod grip between thumb and two fingers; no longer using whole hand.			

Literacy: WRITING

b) Produces lines that intersect, beginning to make cross- and grid-like patterns.			
c) Scribble writes, including 'V' shape and vertical lines.			
d) Makes marks on their paper to stand for their name.			
Step 10 (24-31 months)	Beginning	Developing	Secure
a) Enjoys drawing and writing on paper and different textures, such as sand or playdough, and using touch-screen technology.			
b) Creates and experiments with symbols and marks. Imitates simple shapes.			
c) Draws simple recognisable shapes: for example, tree, sun.			
d) Imitates a simple face: for example, circle for the head with dots/dashes/lines for eyes, nose, and mouth.			
e) Sometimes give meanings to their drawings and paintings using their preferred communication method.			
f) Adds some marks to their drawings to which they give meaning using their preferred communication method.			
Step 11 (30-36 months)	Beginning	Developing	Secure
a) Holds pencil near its tip between first two fingers and thumb and uses it with good control to draw.			
b) Draws spontaneous and recognisable forms: for example, a circle for a head with one or two other features/parts.			
c) Starts to copy some simple horizontal and vertical letters and numbers: for example, E, F, H, T, L and 1, 7, 4.			
d) Explores using a range of their own marks and signs to which they ascribe mathematical meaning.			
Step 12 (35-41 months)	Beginning	Developing	Secure
a) Understands they can use lines to enclose a space and then begins to use these shapes to represent objects.			
b) Begins to use anti-clockwise movement and retrace vertical lines to create letters and numbers: for example, m, o, a, 6, 9.			
c) Makes diagonal lines and patterns: for example, making X-type marks and patterns using a variety of media/materials.			
d) Starts to make recognisable 'S' and '8' type shapes.			
e) Can copy some letters of the alphabet, usually from own name.			
f) Makes up stories, play scenarios, and drawings in response to experiences, such as outings.			
g) Includes mark making and early writing in their play.			
h) Imitates adult's writing by making continuous lines of shapes and symbols, working from left-to-right, right-to-left, or top-to-bottom, dependent upon the writing forms being used by the home/setting.			

Literacy: WRITING

Step 13 (40-50 months)		Beginning	Developing	Secure
a) Writes some letters accurately.				
b) Writes some or all of their name.				
c) Ascribes meaning to marks that they see in different places.				
d) Gives meaning to marks they make as they draw, write and paint.				
e) Attempts to write own name, or other names and words, using combinations of lines, circles and curves, or letter-type shapes; words not necessarily recognisable.				
f) Lessening of arm movement and greater use of hand/wrist movement to write.				
g) Shows interest in letters on a keyboard, identifying the initial letter of their own name and other familiar words.				
h) Begins to make letter-type shapes to represent the initial sound of their name and other familiar words: for example, writing a pretend shopping list that starts at the top of the page with a 'm' for milk.				
i) Starts to develop phonic knowledge by linking sounds to letters, naming/sounding/fingerspelling some of the letters of the alphabet, identifying letters, and writing recognisable letters in sequence, such as in their own name.				
j) Experiments with their own symbols and marks as well as numerals.				
Step 14 (50-60 months+)		Beginning	Developing	Secure
a) Uses their developing phonic knowledge to write things such as labels and captions, later progressing to simple sentences.				
b) Copy writes short sentence from adult model.				
c) Uses a pencil and holds it effectively to form recognisable letters (lower- and upper-case); most correctly formed.				
d) Produces detailed drawings using a combination of forms such as fitting in, overlapping, in and out of enclosures, grids, and sun-like shapes to portray their ideas.				
e) Writes short sentences with known sound-letter correspondence using a capital letter and full stop.				
f) Enjoys creating texts to communicate meaning for an increasing range of purposes such as greeting cards, tickets, lists, invitations and creating their own stories and books, sometimes with words, in print and digital formats.				
g) Begins to break the flow of speech into words, to hear and say/fingerspell the initial sound in words, and may start to segment the sounds into words and blend them together.				
EARLY LEARNING GOAL	Write recognisable letters, most of which are correctly formed. Spell words by identifying sounds in them and representing the sounds with a letter or letters. Write simple phrases and sentences that can be read by others.			

Mathematics: NUMBER			
Step 1 (0-3 months)	Beginning	Developing	Secure
a) Shows interest in new experiences: for example, when you show a new toy.			
b) Moves hanging rattle or soft toy while moving arms or legs.			
Step 2 (2-5 months)	Beginning	Developing	Secure
a) Uses movement and senses to focus on, reach for, and grasp objects.			
b) Can shift visual attention by looking from one object to another and back again.			
c) Shows anticipation and enjoyment of familiar caring routines: for example, sucks/licks lips in response to sounds of preparation for feeding; waves arms or vocalises in excitement when undressed for bath.			
d) Developing an awareness of their own bodies: that their body has different parts and their relationship to each other.			
Step 3 (4-7 months)	Beginning	Developing	Secure
a) Persistently and deliberately reaches out for toys.			
b) Explores space when they are free to move, roll, and stretch.			
c) Plays with and explores objects by banging and shaking, touching them, looking at them, placing them in their mouth, and listening to the sounds they make.			
d) Reacts to changes of amount when those amounts are significant (more than double): for example, when presented with a single soft toy and then presented with a small group of soft toys.			
Step 4 (6-10 months)	Beginning	Developing	Secure
a) Looks for objects they have just dropped. Looks towards the floor when object is dropped by others.			
b) Watches toy being partially hidden under a cloth/container then finds it.			
c) Can still be surprised by things disappearing then reappearing suddenly: for example, pop up toys.			
d) Anticipates movement of object/person: for example, if ball rolls behind couch, looks to other side expecting it to reappear.			
e) Begins to understand cause and effect: for example, will repeat actions in order to repeat the effects.			
Step 5 (9-13 months)	Beginning	Developing	Secure
a) Explores new objects systematically: for example, first banging, then mouthing, then turning over. (This helps understanding and awareness of cause and effect.)			
b) Enjoys putting object in and out of containers.			
c) Watches toy being hidden under a cloth and finds it immediately: showing awareness of object permanence.			

Mathematics: NUMBER			
d) Drops toys deliberately and repeatedly and watches them fall to the ground.			
e) Looks in the right place for things which have moved/fallen out of sight: showing awareness of object permanence.			
f) Tries to get objects that are out of reach: for example, pulls a mat towards them to make toy come closer.			
g) Anticipates what will happen next: for example, may become distressed if the expected routine doesn't happen.			
Step 6 (12-16 months)	Beginning	Developing	Secure
a) May be aware of number names through their enjoyment of action rhymes and songs that relate to numbers.			
b) Demonstrates persistent search for objects, even when hidden under two or three covers.			
Step 7 (15-19 months)	Beginning	Developing	Secure
a) Says/signs some counting words randomly.			
b) With adult support able to demonstrate 1:1 correspondence: for example, making sounds and pointing.			
c) Enjoys 'ready steady go' and '1, 2, 3 go' games.			
Step 8 (18-22 months)	Beginning	Developing	Secure
a) Can tell the difference between quantities, recognising that a group of objects is more than one object.			
b) Reacts to changes of amount in a group of up to three items: for example, shows renewed interest in the objects when more items are added to the original presentation.			
Step 9 (21-25 months)	Beginning	Developing	Secure
a) Begins to use number words/signs/gestures like 'one' or 'two', and sometimes responds accurately when asked to give one or two things.			
b) Tries to work out problems by thinking first: for example, how to switch something on.			
c) Carries out simple everyday sequences: for example, pouring cereal into bowl and adding milk.			
Step 10 (24-31 months)	Beginning	Developing	Secure
a) Develops counting-like behaviour, such as making sounds, pointing, or saying some numbers in sequence.			
b) Begins to say/sign/place numbers in order, some of which are in the right order (ordinality).			
c) Has some understanding of 1 and 2 in practical situations: for example, says/signs/indicates 'I have two boats.'			
d) Using their preferred communication method, uses some number language in play to compare quantity (such as, 'all gone', 'more', 'lots', or 'same'): for example, 'milk all gone', or 'lots of worms' when digging in the mud.			

Mathematics: NUMBER			
e) Remembers a sequence of activities and events using their preferred communication method: for example: says 'Mummy train ice-cream'.			
Step 11 (30-36 months)	Beginning	Developing	Secure
a) Explores using a range of their own marks and signs to which they ascribe mathematical meanings.			
b) Beginning to count on their fingers.			
c) In everyday situations, takes or gives two or three objects from a group.			
d) Compares two small groups of up to five objects, saying/signing/indicating when there are the same number of objects in each group: for example, 'You've got two, I've got two. Same!'			
e) Using their preferred communication method, uses some number names and language spontaneously in play; however, not consistent or accurate: for example, counts in everyday contexts, sometimes skipping numbers 'one, two, three, five.'			
f) Beginning to notice numerals (number symbols): for example, notices a number of significance (such as their age) printed in books or displayed in the environment.			
Step 12 (35-41 months)	Beginning	Developing	Secure
a) Recites numbers in order to 10.			
b) Beginning to recognise that each counting number is one more than the one before.			
c) Points or touches (tags) each item, saying/signing one number for each item, using the stable order of 1,2,3,4,5.			
d) Counts up to five items, recognising that the last number said represents the total counted so far (cardinal principle).			
e) Shows 'finger numbers' up to 5.			
f) Realises not only objects but anything can be counted, including steps, claps, or jumps.			
g) Begins to recognise numerals 0 to 10. Shows an interest in numerals in the environment.			
h) Using their preferred communication method, uses some number names and number language accurately within play, and may show fascination with large numbers.			
i) Subitises one, two, and three objects (recognising the quantity within a group without counting).			
j) Through play and exploration, beginning to learn that numbers are made up (composed) of smaller numbers: for example, recognises that three train carriages and two more train carriages make five carriages in total.			
k) Beginning to use understanding of number to solve practical problems in play and meaningful activities: for example, there are 3 people having milk, so we need to get 3 cups.			
Step 13 (40-50 months)	Beginning	Developing	Secure
a) Engages in subitising numbers to four and maybe five.			

Mathematics: NUMBER			
b) Recognises numerals 1 to 5. Links numerals with amounts up to 5 and maybe beyond.			
c) Using their preferred communication method, compares two quantities using language such as 'more than', 'fewer than': for example, a child comments 'Lottie has 2 more cars than me'.			
d) Solves real world mathematical problems with numbers up to 5: for example, has 3 bricks but need 5, so they find two more.			
e) Finds one more or less than a number from one to ten.			
f) Experiments with their own symbols and marks as well as numerals.			
g) Separates a group of three or four objects in different ways, beginning to recognise that the total is still the same.			
Step 14 (50-60 months+)	Beginning	Developing	Secure
a) Enjoys reciting numbers from 0 to 10 (and beyond) and back from 10 to 0.			
b) Counts out up to 10 objects from a larger group.			
c) Matches the numeral with a group of items to show how many there are (up to 10).			
d) Finds the total number of items in two groups by counting all of them.			
e) Shares objects into equal groups and counts how many in each group.			
f) Explores the composition of numbers to 10.			
g) Automatically recalls number bonds for numbers 0-10.			
h) Increasingly confident at putting numerals in order 0 to 10 (ordinality).			
i) Using their preferred communication method, uses number names and symbols when comparing numbers, showing interest in large numbers.			
j) Estimates numbers of things, showing understanding of relative size.			
k) Shows awareness that numbers are made up (composed) of smaller numbers, exploring partitioning in different ways with a wide range of objects.			
l) Begins to conceptually subitise larger numbers by subitising smaller groups within the number: for example, sees six raisins on a plate as three and three.			
m) Begins to explore and work out mathematical problems, using signs and strategies of their own choice, including (when appropriate) standard numerals, tallies, and '+' or '-' signs.			
EARLY LEARNING GOAL	Have a deep understanding of number to 10, including the composition of each number. Subitise (recognise quantities without counting) up to 5. Automatically recall (without reference to rhymes, counting or other aids) number bonds up to 5 (including subtraction facts) and some number bonds to 10, including double facts.		

Mathematics: NUMERICAL PATTERNS				
Step 1 (0-3 months) to Step 4 (6-10 months)				
See Mathematics: Number.				
Step 5 (9-13 months)			Beginning	Developing
Spatial Awareness	a) Looks in the right place for toys that fall out of sight: demonstrates awareness of object permanence.			
	Shape	b) Explores new objects systematically: for example, first banging, then mouthing, then turning over.		
c) Responds to changes of shape: for example, watching a balloon inflate and deflate.				
d) Puts objects inside others and take them out again.				
Measure	e) Explores differently sized and shaped objects.			
	f) Responds to size, reacting to very big or very small items that they see or try to pick up.			
Pattern	g) Shows interest in patterned songs and rhymes, perhaps with repeated actions.			
	h) Shows interest in patterned objects and images: for example, reaching out to touch stripes on a play mat.			
	i) Begins to predict what happens next in predictable situations: for example, anticipates food when sat in highchair.			
Step 6 (12-16 months)			Beginning	Developing
Spatial Awareness	a) Intensely curious: exploring objects, rooms, outside areas, or, if not mobile, shows curiosity by pointing or looking at areas/objects they would like to explore.			
	b) Demonstrates persistent search for objects, even when hidden under 2-3 covers.			
Shape	c) Beginning to put objects of similar shapes inside others and take them out again.			
Measure	d) Shows an interest in emptying containers.			
Pattern	e) Joins in with repeated actions in songs and stories.			
	f) Initiates and continues repeated actions: for example, bangs tambourine and looks for the adult to continue.			
Step 7 (15-19 months)			Beginning	Developing
Spatial Awareness	a) Using visual memory, finds toy when hidden under one of two/three identical covers laid out in a row.			
	b) Remembers where objects belong: for example, puts toys away in right place and then finds them later.			
	c) Solves simple problems independently: for example, retrieving out-of-reach toys.			

Mathematics: NUMERICAL PATTERNS				
	d) Investigates fitting themselves inside and moving through spaces.			
Shape	e) Stacks objects using flat surfaces.			
	f) Able to sort real objects with adult support: for example, puts all the big balls together.			
	g) Begin to match items in meaningful contexts: for example, finds a matching pair of shoes.			
Measure	h) Enjoys filling and emptying containers.			
	i) Enjoys playing with objects of different sizes that go together and learning about the relative size of objects.			
	j) Shows an interest in objects of contrasting sizes in meaningful contexts.			
Pattern	k) Gets to know and enjoys daily routines.			
Step 8 (18-22 months)		Beginning	Developing	Secure
Shape	a) Beginning to select a shape for a specific space: for example, looks at shape of piece and shapes on a puzzle board and fits together correctly.			
	b) Can organise and categorise objects: for example, putting all red things and all blue things in separate piles, or all teddies in one box and all cars in another.			
	c) Uses blocks to create their own simple structures and arrangements.			
Pattern	d) Uses experience to predict simple cause and effect: for example, straightens tower of blocks if it wobbles.			
	e) Anticipates what might happen next because of what other people say/sign.			
Step 9 (21-25 months)		Beginning	Developing	Secure
Spatial Awareness	a) Tries to work out problems by thinking first: for example, how to get something out of reach.			
Shape	b) Self-corrects during an activity without adult prompting: for example, tries to fit a puzzle piece in the wrong space then changes to the right space.			
	c) Matches sets of identical objects in practical situations: developing understanding of concept of 'the same'.			
Measure	d) Explores capacity by selecting, filling, and emptying containers: for example, fitting toys in a pram.			
Pattern	e) Becoming familiar with patterns in daily routines: for example, 'now, it's snack time, next, outdoor play' is understood when speech/sign/visual cues are used by the communication partner.			
	f) Remembers a sequence of activities and events: for example, to wash their hands before sitting for lunch.			
	g) Using their preferred communication method, joins in with and predicts what comes next in a story/rhyme.			
	h) Beginning to arrange items in their own patterns: for example, lining up toys.			

Mathematics: NUMERICAL PATTERNS				
Step 10 (24-31 months)		Beginning	Developing	Secure
Spatial Awareness	a) Moves their body and toys around objects and explores fitting into spaces.			
Shape	b) Completes a simple 2-4-piece puzzle with shapes that fit together.			
	c) Matches simple pictures of familiar objects.			
	d) Matches objects to picture: for example, matches real shoe to a picture of a shoe.			
	e) Matches simple shapes: circle, square, triangle. Notices simple patterns and shapes in pictures.			
Measure	f) Explores differences in size, length, weight, and capacity.			
	g) Fits 3-4 nesting/stacking cups together independently, showing understanding of size differences and fit.			
	h) Using their preferred communication method, begins to use the language of size and weight.			
	i) Demonstrates some understanding of simple math vocabulary in play activities using their preferred communication method: for example, big/little, in, on, under, full/empty, long/short, more, now/next, first/last.			
	j) Begins to develop sense of time using their preferred communication method: for example, understands terms such as 'later', 'tomorrow', and 'yesterday'.			
Pattern	k) Understands some language about immediate past and future ('before', 'later', 'soon'): for example, 'Shoes on before you play outside' when speech/sign/visual cues are used by the communication partner.			
	l) Anticipates specific time-based events, such as mealtimes or home time.			
	m) Names/signs two or three colours.			
Step 11 (30-36 months)		Beginning	Developing	Secure
Spatial Awareness	a) Begins to remember their way around familiar environments.			
	b) Responds to some spatial and positional language when speech/sign/visual cues are used by the communication partner.			
	c) Explores how things look from different viewpoints, including things that are near or far away: for example, looking at a train-track when standing over it and then lying next to it; looking at a large construction made from hollow blocks/crates in the outdoor area close-up and then from the far-side of the outdoor space.			
Shape	d) Recognises that two objects have the same shape.			
Measure	e) Matches objects by size.			
Pattern	f) Understands consequences of own actions: for example, if cup is knocked over the juice is spilt, etc.			
	g) Joins in and anticipates repeated sound and action patterns: for example, in familiar action songs, plays with musical instruments.			

Mathematics: NUMERICAL PATTERNS				
Step 12 (35-41 months)		Beginning	Developing	Secure
Spatial Awareness	a) Using their preferred communication method, responds to and uses language of position and direction.			
	b) Predicts, moves, and rotates objects to fit the space or create the shape they would like.			
	c) Shows understanding of prepositions 'on top', 'behind' and 'next to' by carrying out action when speech/sign/visual cues are used by the communication partner.			
Shape	d) Using their preferred communication method, describes the shapes of objects: for example, 'round and tall'.			
	e) Shows interest in shape by sustained construction activity or by talking/signing/gesturing about shapes or arrangements.			
	f) Responds to both informal language (such as, pointy, twisty, wiggly, bumpy) and common shape names when speech/sign/visual cues are used by the communication partner.			
	g) Using their preferred communication method, begins to comment about the shapes of everyday objects.			
	h) Selects a particular named shape when speech/sign/visual cues are used by the communication partner.			
	i) Chooses items based on their shape which are appropriate for the child's purpose.			
	j) Shows awareness of shape similarities and differences between objects.			
Pattern	k) Enjoys partitioning shapes to make new 2D and 3D shapes: for example, cuts sandwich into squares/triangles.			
	l) Using their preferred communication method, comments on and identifies the patterns around them: for example, stripes on clothes, designs on rugs, etc.			
	m) Using their preferred communication method, uses informal language like 'spotty', 'blobs', 'pointy', etc.			
Step 13 (40-50 months)		Beginning	Developing	Secure
Spatial Awareness	a) Understands position through the adult's use of words/signs/visual cues alone, without pointing: for example, 'Put the pig in front of the farmer.'			
	b) Using their preferred communication method, uses spatial language to describe position and give directions: for example, 'above', 'beside', 'behind', etc.			
	c) Describes a familiar route using their preferred communication method.			
Shape	d) Begins to use mathematical terms to name and describe 'solid' 3D shapes and 'flat' 2-D shapes using their preferred communication method.			
	e) Attempts to create arches and enclosures when building, using trial and improvement to select blocks.			
Measure	f) Compares sizes, weights, etc. using gesture and language: 'bigger/little/smaller', 'high/low', 'tall', 'heavy'.			
	g) Puts three items in the right order by length or height.			

Mathematics: NUMERICAL PATTERNS				
	h) Puts two items in the right order by weight or capacity.			
Pattern	i) Continues, copies, and creates repeating patterns: for example, stick, leaf, stick, leaf.			
	j) Using their preferred communication method, begins to describe a sequence of events, real or fictional, using terms such as 'first...', 'then...'			
Step 14 (50-60 months)		Beginning	Developing	Secure
Spatial Awareness	a) Investigates turning and flipping objects in order to make shapes fit and creates models: predicting and visualising how they will look (spatial reasoning).			
	b) Enjoys making simple maps of familiar and imaginative environments, with landmarks.			
Shape	c) Using their preferred communication method, comments on and explores 2D and 3D shapes (for example, circles, rectangles, triangles and cuboids) using informal and mathematical language: 'sides', 'corners'; 'straight', 'flat', 'round'.			
	d) Enjoys composing and decomposing shapes, learning which shapes combine to make other shapes.			
	e) Uses own ideas to make models of increasing complexity, selecting blocks needed, solving problems and visualising what they will build.			
Measure	f) Beginning to experience measuring time with timers and calendars.			
	g) Uses language such as 'greater', 'smaller', 'heavier' or 'lighter' to compare more than two quantities using their preferred communication method.			
	h) Enjoys tackling problems involving prediction and engages in discussions involving comparisons by length, weight, or capacity, paying attention to fair-testing and accuracy: for example, in considering how many buckets of water it will take to fill a wheelbarrow, recognises we need to make sure the bucket is full to the same level when counting them.			
	i) Becomes familiar with measuring tools in everyday experiences and play.			
	j) Increasingly able to order and sequence events using language related to time: both past and present.			
Pattern	k) Notices and corrects an error in a repeating pattern.			
EARLY LEARNING GOAL	<p>Using their preferred communication method the child will: Verbally count or sign/show the order of numbers beyond 20, recognising the pattern of the counting system. Compare quantities up to 10 in different contexts, recognising when one quantity is greater than, less than, or the same as the other quantity. Explore and represent patterns within numbers up to 10, including evens and odds, double facts, and how quantities can be distributed equally.</p>			

Understanding the world: PAST AND PRESENT			
Step 1 (0-3 months) to Step 5 (9-13 months)			
The beginnings of understanding of past and present lie in early attachment and other relationships. See Personal, Social and Emotional Development and Communication and Language.			
Step 6 (12-16 months)	Beginning	Developing	Secure
a) Cooperates in everyday routines: for example, dressing, bathing, singing games, tidying up.			
b) Enjoys teasing games: for example, 'I'm going to get you' or tickling games, etc.			
Step 7 (15-19 months)	Beginning	Developing	Secure
a) Imitates some everyday routines: for example, washing clothes, sweeping floor.			
b) Enjoys anticipation games/toys: for example, jack-in-the-box, ready-steady-go.			
c) Joins in simple routines spontaneously.			
d) Remembers where objects belong.			
Step 8 (18-22 months)	Beginning	Developing	Secure
a) Anticipates what might happen next when speech/sign/visual cues are used by the communication partner.			
Step 9 (21-25 months)	Beginning	Developing	Secure
a) Able to imitate actions in play a while after they have seen them demonstrated.			
b) Recognises and anticipates everyday routines: for example, looks at coat when adult is getting ready to go out.			
c) Is curious about people; shows interest in stories about people, animals, or objects which fascinate them.			
Step 10 (24-31 months)	Beginning	Developing	Secure
a) Understands simple explanations and reasons given by others when speech/sign/visual cues are used by the communication partner: for example, 'We can go to the park after lunch.'			
b) Understands some talk about immediate past and future ('before', 'later', 'soon') when speech/sign/visual cues are used by the communication partner: for example, 'Shoes on before you play outside.'			
Step 11 (30-36 months)	Beginning	Developing	Secure
a) Can perform new actions a while after they have seen them demonstrated by a more able partner (imitation).			
Step 12 (35-41 months)	Beginning	Developing	Secure
a) Remembers and comments on significant events in their own experience using their preferred communication method.			

Understanding the world: PAST AND PRESENT				
b) Shows interest in the lives of people who are familiar to them.				
c) Enjoys joining in with family customs and routines.				
Step 13 (40-50 months)		Beginning	Developing	Secure
a) Recognises and describes special times or events for family or friends using their preferred communication method.				
b) Makes comments about personal intentions, describing what they are trying to do, using their preferred communication method.				
c) Begins to make sense of their own life-story and family's history.				
Step 14 (50-60 months+)		Beginning	Developing	Secure
a) Explains own knowledge and understanding and asks appropriate questions of others using their preferred communication method.				
b) Makes short term future-plans: for example, says/signs/indicates 'Tomorrow I'm going to...'; 'Next week it's my birthday.'				
c) Compares and contrasts characters from stories, including figures from the past.				
d) Comments on images of familiar situations in the past using their preferred communication method.				
e) Makes comments about past and present events in their own life and in the lives of family members using their preferred communication method.				
EARLY LEARNING GOAL	Using their preferred communication method the child will: Make comments about the lives of the people around them and their roles in society. Know some similarities and differences between things in the past and now, drawing on their experiences and what has been read in class. Understand the past through settings, characters, and events encountered in books read in class and storytelling.			

Understanding the world: PEOPLE, CULTURE AND COMMUNITIES				
Step 1 (0-3 months) to Step 5 (9-13 months)				
The beginnings of understanding of people, culture and communities lie in early attachment and other relationships. See Personal, Social and Emotional Development and Communication and Language.				
Step 6 (12-16 months)		Beginning	Developing	Secure
a) Copies actions and activities of others, including use of gesture or voice, as part of their play.				
b) Cooperates in everyday routines: for example, dressing, bathing, singing games, tidying up.				

Understanding the world: PEOPLE, CULTURE AND COMMUNITIES			
c) Demonstrates early pretend behaviour: for example, pretends to be asleep by covering self with blanket.			
d) Engages in simple pretend play with soft toys: for example, hugs and kisses teddy.			
e) Uses real object for pretend play on self or another: for example, drinks from a cup, brushes someone's hair.			
f) Accepts adult varying a game or pretend play and imitates and joins in with new actions/routines: for example, the child may tip toy-food on to the floor but would copy the adult then placing them into a bag.			
Step 7 (15-19 months)	Beginning	Developing	Secure
a) Copies things they see and hear others doing around them, including phrases, parts of games, and actions: for example, joining in with action songs and rhymes at carpet time.			
b) Imitates some everyday routines: for example, washing clothes, sweeping floor.			
c) Is curious about people and shows interest in stories about themselves and their family.			
d) Plays cooperatively with an adult: for example, kicks or rolls ball back and forth.			
e) Joins in simple routines spontaneously: for example, wipes face after dinner.			
f) Hands a toy to adult for assistance when unable to get it to work.			
g) Includes other people and objects in pretend play: for example, feeds a doll or teddy with a spoon or cup.			
Step 8 (18-22 months)	Beginning	Developing	Secure
a) Imitates everyday actions in pretend play: for example, brushing doll's hair, making beds, tasting food, cleaning dolls house, getting in the car, shopping, etc.			
b) Recognises familiar adult in picture.			
c) Recognises self in mirror or photograph.			
d) Will pause and wait with support for turn in play with others.			
e) Spends time within groups of other children engaged in own play but watching the other children.			
Step 9 (21-25 months)	Beginning	Developing	Secure
a) Imitates longer sequences in play: for example, pours tea, pours in milk and sugar, stirs, and then gives to doll.			
b) Displays curiosity by asking questions using words/signs, and looking intently at objects, events and people.			
c) Enjoys dressing up: for example, puts on hats; looks at self in mirror when putting on dressing-up clothes.			
d) Enjoys being part of activities with adult or older child, often involving running or chasing.			

Understanding the world: PEOPLE, CULTURE AND COMMUNITIES			
e) Is curious about people and shows interest in stories about people, animals, or objects that they are familiar with or which fascinate them.			
f) Is interested in photographs of themselves and other familiar people and objects.			
Step 10 (24-31 months)	Beginning	Developing	Secure
a) Has a sense of own immediate family and relations, including pets.			
b) Beginning to have their own friends.			
Step 11 (30-36 months)	Beginning	Developing	Secure
a) In pretend play imitates everyday actions and events from own family and cultural background: for example, making chapatis, drinking tea, going to the barbers, being a cat, dog, or bird.			
b) Notices and is curious about differences between people.			
c) Joins in with learning activities led by more able partners and performs new actions after having seen them demonstrated.			
d) Enjoys playing with small world reconstructions, building on first-hand experiences: for example, visiting farms, garages, train tracks, walking by river or lake.			
Step 12 (35-41 months)	Beginning	Developing	Secure
a) Notices what adults do: copying what is observed and then doing it when the adult is not there.			
b) Shows interest in the lives of people who are familiar to them.			
c) Shows interest in different occupations and ways of life.			
d) Enjoys joining in with family customs and routines.			
Step 13 (40-50 months)	Beginning	Developing	Secure
a) Recognises and describes special times or events for family or friends using their preferred communication method.			
b) Knows some of the things that make them unique, and can talk about/signs/indicates some of the similarities and differences in relation to friends or family.			
c) Continues developing positive attitudes about the differences between people.			
d) Begins to understand there are different countries in the world and talk about/signs/indicates the differences they have experienced or seen.			
Step 14 (50-60 months+)	Beginning	Developing	Secure
a) Using their preferred communication method, shares their own knowledge and understanding of the world around them and asks appropriate questions.			

Understanding the world: PEOPLE, CULTURE AND COMMUNITIES			
	b) Recognise some similarities and differences between life in this country and life in other countries.		
	c) Recognise that people have different beliefs and celebrate special times in different ways.		
	d) Understands that some places are special to members of their community.		
	e) Makes comments about members of their immediate family and community using their preferred communication method.		
	f) Names and describes people who are familiar to them using their preferred communication method.		
	g) Draws information from a simple map.		
	h) Knows about similarities and differences between themselves and others, and among families, communities, cultures, and traditions.		
	i) Knows that other children do not always enjoy the same things, and is sensitive to this.		
EARLY LEARNING GOAL	<p>Using their preferred communication method the child will: Describe their immediate environment using knowledge from observation, discussion, stories, non-fiction texts, and maps. Know some similarities and differences between different religious and cultural communities in this country, drawing on their experiences and what has been read in class. Explain some similarities and differences between life in this country and life in other countries, drawing on knowledge from stories, non-fiction texts and, when appropriate, maps.</p>		

Understanding the world: THE NATURAL WORLD			
Step 1 (0-3 months)	Beginning	Developing	Secure
a) Responds to touch 'games' (stroking tummy/feet, tickling, kissing, blowing on tummy) by stilling, smiling, gazing, or waving arms/legs, etc.			
b) Closes hand firmly around objects placed in palm.			
c) Turns head/eyes towards diffuse light or interesting objects.			
d) Can move eyes to look at different parts of objects and pictures.			
e) When lying on back or propped up moves eyes to follow close face/object moving slowly from side-to-side.			
f) Turns eyes and/or head towards new sounds.			
g) Is startled by sudden noise.			
h) Interested in new experiences: for example, shows renewed interest if you present a different toy.			

Understanding the world: THE NATURAL WORLD			
Step 2 (2-5 months)	Beginning	Developing	Secure
a) Repeats actions that have an effect: for example, kicking or batting mobile to create movement.			
b) Brings objects to mouth to explore them.			
c) Likes listening to music, rattles, and other sound-making toys.			
d) Reacts with abrupt behaviour change when a face or object disappears suddenly from view.			
e) Looks from one object to another and back again: 'shifting visual attention'. Objects may be moving or still.			
f) Reacts to familiar sounds or sights by changes in behaviour: for example, extends arms/legs, smiles, searches with eyes when hears the vacuum cleaner, running bath, footsteps, etc.			
g) Moves eyes, then head, to follow nearby moving objects.			
h) Shows interest in small objects or the detail of a toy: for example, will gaze at small beads in a rattle.			
i) Smiles with pleasure at recognisable playthings.			
Step 3 (4-7 months)	Beginning	Developing	Secure
a) Plays with and explores objects by touching them, looking at them, mouthing them, and listening to the sounds they make.			
b) Repeats action to make sound again: for example, shakes rattle, squeezes toy, kicks at baby gym.			
c) Persistently and deliberately reaches out for toys that interest them.			
d) Recognises familiar environmental sounds (washing machine, microwave, footsteps); shown by quietening/consistent reactions/turning to looks at source of sound.			
e) Notices changes in objects, pictures and sounds: for example, may look puzzled or stop what they are doing when bubbles pop and disappear or music stops.			
Step 4 (6-10 months)	Beginning	Developing	Secure
a) Actively explores objects using all senses: shaking, looking, feeling, tasting, mouthing, pulling, turning, poking.			
b) Begins to understand cause and effect: for example, will deliberately repeat actions in order to repeat the effect.			
c) Looks towards the floor when object is dropped by themselves or others.			
d) Watches own hand movements intently, for 5 seconds +.			
e) Watches toy being partially hidden under a cloth/container and then finds it.			
f) Anticipates movement of object/person: for example, if ball rolls behind couch looks to other side expecting it to reappear.			
g) Stares with increasing interest when a new object is shown to them.			

Understanding the world: THE NATURAL WORLD			
h) Can still be surprised by things disappearing then reappearing suddenly: for example, pop-up toys.			
Step 5 (9-13 months)	Beginning	Developing	Secure
a) Explores new objects systematically: for example, first banging, then mouthing, then turning over.			
b) Watches toy being completely hidden and tries to find it; watches intently where a spider has scuttled away under leaves, demonstrating an awareness of object permanence.			
c) Understands the meaning of some sounds: for example, hears a telephone ringing and looks at the telephone.			
d) Explores natural materials, indoors and outside.			
e) Explores materials with different properties: for example, textured toys.			
f) Becomes absorbed in combining objects: for example, banging two objects or placing objects into containers.			
Step 6 (12-16 months)	Beginning	Developing	Secure
a) Knows there are different ways to play with different toys: for example, a ball is for rolling/throwing, a car is for pushing, blocks are for building/posting, etc.			
b) Interested in things that go together: for example, cup/saucer, puzzle parts.			
c) Realises that one object can act as a container for another: puts smaller objects inside bigger ones.			
d) Experiments: tries something and then reflects on it, and then tries something else: for example, if piece of puzzle doesn't fit, tries it in the other holes.			
e) Intensely curious: exploring objects, rooms, outside areas or if not mobile shows curiosity by pointing or looking at areas/objects they would like to explore.			
f) Demonstrates persistent search for objects, even when hidden under two or three covers.			
g) Closely observes what animals, people and vehicles do.			
Step 7 (15-19 months)	Beginning	Developing	Secure
a) Experiments with different objects to look for other new properties: for example, plays with a plastic bowl by putting it on head, filling it with blocks, banging it, covering it with toys, looking through it, etc.			
b) Matches objects with parts that go together: for example, puts lid on saucepan.			
c) Enjoys playing with objects of different sizes that go together and shows an awareness of difference between big and little things: for example, hiding small objects inside larger ones.			
d) Shows understanding that things exist even when out of sight: for example, will refer to, request, or search for objects that are not currently in sight.			
e) Is curious and interested to explore new and familiar experiences in nature: grass, mud, puddles, plants, animal life.			

Understanding the world: THE NATURAL WORLD			
Step 8 (18-22 months)	Beginning	Developing	Secure
a) Uses understanding of cause and effect: for example, straightens up a tower of blocks if it starts to wobble.			
b) Likes to put objects together: for example, puts cups on saucers, spoon in a bowl, doll in the bed.			
c) Is interested in pulling and pushing things, and builds simple structures.			
d) Explores and responds to different natural events in their setting and on trips: for example, splashing in puddles, looking at seasonal changes.			
Step 9 (21-25 months)	Beginning	Developing	Secure
a) Plays with playdough and other malleable materials making different shapes; using their preferred communication method, makes comments about what they have made.			
b) Enjoys simple stories about people and nature (birds, bees, snails, cats, dogs, etc.), and is interested in photographs of these.			
Step 10 (24-31 months)	Beginning	Developing	Secure
a) Matches sets of identical objects. Understands the idea of 'the same'.			
b) Understands size differences: for example, selects the bigger or smaller object or picture when asked.			
Step 11 (30-36 months)	Beginning	Developing	Secure
a) Enjoys playing with small world reconstructions, drawing from first-hand experiences: for example, visits to farms, garages, train tracks; walking by river or lake; etc.			
b) Notices detailed features of objects in their environment.			
Step 12 (35-41 months)	Beginning	Developing	Secure
a) Using their preferred communication method, makes comments about some of the things they see or have observed such as plants, animals, natural and found objects.			
b) Shows care and concern for living things and the environment.			
c) Using their preferred communication method, makes comments and ask questions about aspects of their familiar world, such as the place where they live or the natural world.			
d) Explores collections of materials with similar and/or different properties.			
Step 13 (40-50 months)	Beginning	Developing	Secure
a) Developing an understanding of growth, decay, and changes over time.			
b) Makes comments about why things happen and how things work using their preferred communication method.			

Understanding the world: THE NATURAL WORLD			
c)	Makes comments about the differences between materials and changes they notice using their preferred communication method.		
d)	Explores and talks/signs/indicates about different forces they can feel: for example, how the water pushes up when they try to push a plastic boat under it.		
e)	Begins to understand the need to respect and care for the natural environment and all living things.		
f)	Understands the key features of the life cycle of a plant and an animal.		
g)	Plants seeds and cares for growing plants.		
h)	Begins to understand the effect their behaviour can have on the environment: for example, littering.		
i)	Begins to understand there are different countries in the world and talk about/signs/indicates the differences they have experienced or seen.		
Step 14 (50-60 months+)		Beginning	Developing
a)	Beginning to understand the effect of changing seasons on the natural world around them.		
b)	Using their preferred communication method, describes what they see, hear and feel whilst outside.		
c)	Makes observations of animals and plants and explains, using their preferred communication method, why some things occur, and talks about changes.		
d)	Using their preferred communication method, makes comments about the features of their own immediate environment, features that they like and dislike, and how environments might vary from one another.		
e)	Knows about similarities and differences in relation to places, objects, materials, and living things.		
f)	Looks closely at similarities, differences, patterns, and change in nature.		
g)	Draws information from a simple map.		
EARLY LEARNING GOAL	Explores the natural world around them, making observations and drawing pictures of animals and plants. Knows some similarities and differences between the natural world around them and contrasting environments, drawing on their experiences and what has been read in class. Understands some important processes and changes in the natural world around them, including the seasons and changing states of matter.		

Expressive Arts and Design: CREATING WITH MATERIALS			
Step 1 (0-3 months) to Step 3 (4-7 months)			
Steps 1 to 3 are all concerned with a child's response to stimuli. See Mathematics: Number and Understanding the World: The Natural World.			
Step 4 (6-10 months)	Beginning	Developing	Secure
a) Incidentally discovers mark-making: for example, notices that trailing a finger through spilt juice creates marks and patterns.			
b) Likes listening to music, rattles, and other sound-making toys.			
c) Enjoys (being engaged by an adult in) singing and action rhymes/games.			
d) Responds to music by swaying, bouncing, etc.			
e) Uses objects to make sounds: for example, bangs them together, hits with a hammer, shakes a rattle.			
Step 5 (9-13 months)	Beginning	Developing	Secure
a) Starts to make marks intentionally.			
b) Expresses emotion through the movement of fingers, hands, arms, and body.			
Step 6 (12-16 months)	Beginning	Developing	Secure
a) Holds pen or crayon using whole hand (palmar) grasp and scribbles with different strokes.			
b) Enjoys the sensory experience of making marks in food, damp sand, water, mud, paste, or paint.			
c) Begins to understand the cause and effect of their actions in mark making.			
d) Moves whole body to sounds they enjoy in music or to a regular beat.			
Step 7 (15-19 months)	Beginning	Developing	Secure
a) Scribbles spontaneously and makes strokes and dots on paper, enjoying the sensory feeling of making marks.			
b) Continues to explore and experiment with an increasing range of media and movement through multi-sensory exploration and expression: for example, exploring paint using fingers as well as brushes and other tools.			
c) Notices and becomes interested in the transformative effect of their action on materials and resources.			
Step 8 (18-22 months)	Beginning	Developing	Secure
a) When holding crayons, chinks, etc., makes connections between their movements and the marks they make: draws vertical lines; produces circular scribble; produces side-to-side and to-and-fro scribble.			
b) Is expressive through physical actions and sounds.			
c) Builds simple structures with solid wooden blocks: for example, a tower.			

Expressive Arts and Design: CREATING WITH MATERIALS			
Step 9 (21-25 months)	Beginning	Developing	Secure
a) Experiments with blocks, colours and marks.			
b) Incidentally discovers colour and how colours can be changed.			
c) Constructs by stacking solid wooden blocks vertically and horizontally, making enclosures and creating spaces.			
Step 10 (24-31 months)	Beginning	Developing	Secure
a) Express ideas and feelings through making marks, and, using their preferred communication method, sometimes give a meaning to the marks they make.			
b) Begins to name/sign/indicates familiar colours.			
c) Has favourite materials, lights, music, and aromas.			
d) Builds simple structures using a variety of construction toys: for example, building a tower out of Duplo bricks.			
Step 11 (30-36 months)	Beginning	Developing	Secure
a) Draws with increasing complexity and detail, such as representing a face with a circle and including details, such as eyes, nose, and mouth.			
b) Shows an interest in the way musical instruments sound.			
c) Imitates movement in response to music.			
d) Experiments with ways to enclose a space, create shapes, and represent actions, sounds, and objects.			
e) Uses 3D and 2D structures to explore materials and/or to express ideas.			
Step 12 (35-41 months)	Beginning	Developing	Secure
a) Explores colour and colour mixing.			
b) Sings/signs/indicates a few familiar songs.			
c) Develops an understanding of how to create and use sounds intentionally.			
d) Create closed shapes with continuous lines and begins to use these shapes to represent objects.			
e) Able to join a variety of construction materials in both horizontal and vertical directions.			
f) Explores different materials freely, in order to develop their ideas about how to use them and what to make.			
g) Develop their own ideas and then decide which materials to use to express them.			
h) Join different materials and explore different textures.			

Expressive Arts and Design: CREATING WITH MATERIALS			
i) Is interested in and describes the texture of things using their preferred communication method: for example, 'rough', 'smooth', etc.			
Step 13 (40-50 months)	Beginning	Developing	Secure
a) Chooses colour for a purpose.			
b) Develops preferences for forms of expression.			
c) Taps out simple repeated rhythms and makes some up.			
d) Uses various construction materials: for example, joining pieces, stacking vertically and horizontally, balancing, making enclosures, and creating spaces.			
e) Uses tools for a purpose.			
Step 14 (50-60 months+)	Beginning	Developing	Secure
a) Understands that different media can be combined to create new effects.			
b) Experiments to create different textures.			
c) Constructs with a purpose in mind, using a variety of resources.			
d) Recognises and explores how sounds can be changed, sings/signs simple songs from memory, recognises repeated sounds and sound patterns, and matches movements to music.			
e) Explores the different sounds of instruments.			
f) Using the child's preferred communication method, responds to comments and questions and can comment about their creations.			
g) Uses simple tools and techniques competently and appropriately.			
h) Selects appropriate resources and adapts work where necessary.			
i) Returns to and builds on their previous learning, refining ideas, and developing their ability to represent them.			
j) Creates collaboratively, sharing ideas, resources, and skills.			
EARLY LEARNING GOAL	Safely uses and explores a variety of materials, tools and techniques, experimenting with colour, design, texture, form, and function. Shares their creations, and using their preferred communication method they explain the process used. Makes use of props and materials when role playing characters in narratives and stories.		

Expressive arts and design: BEING IMAGINATIVE AND EXPRESSIVE			
Step 1 (0-3 months) to Step 3 (4-7 months)			
Steps 1 to 3 are all concerned with a child's response to stimuli. See Communication and Language: Listening and Attention, Mathematics: Number, Understanding the World: The Natural World.			
Step 4 (6-10 months)	Beginning	Developing	Secure
a) Anticipates phrases and actions in rhymes and songs, such as 'Peepo'.			
b) Anticipates actions, tickles, etc. from sounds and tunes of songs and rhymes: for example, giggles at the end of 'Round and round the garden', waiting for the tickle to come.			
c) Makes rhythmical and repetitive sounds.			
d) Copies actions they see performed that are already in their repertoire: for example, if they know how to bang their hands on the table they will copy another person doing this.			
Step 5 (9-13 months)	Beginning	Developing	Secure
a) Responds emotionally and physically to music when it changes.			
b) Expresses emotion through the movement of fingers, hands, arms, and body.			
c) Can copy using an object after seeing adult do it: for example, holds beater and bangs drum, etc.			
d) Can copy clapping hands.			
e) Can copy sounds or gestures that are not part of their repertoire: watches carefully then copies something they haven't done before.			
f) Copies simple pretend play with familiar toys: for example, hugs and kisses teddy.			
g) Creates variations on familiar games: for example, 'hides' in different ways during peek-a-boo games and frequently tries out new ways of 'hiding'.			
Step 6 (12-16 months)	Beginning	Developing	Secure
a) Moves and dances to music.			
b) Begins to join in with familiar songs and rhymes, making some sounds.			
c) Copies others' use of objects, gesture or voice almost immediately.			
d) Imitates actions and activities of others as part of their play: for example, chatting on a phone.			
e) Accepts adult varying a game or pretend play and imitates and joins in with new actions and routines.			
f) Uses real object for pretend play: for example, drinks from a cup; brushes someone's hair.			

Expressive arts and design: BEING IMAGINATIVE AND EXPRESSIVE			
g) Play demonstrates understanding of use of objects: for example, puts telephone to ear; turns pages of book; stirs spoon in cup; or attempts to place pieces in a puzzle.			
h) Demonstrates early pretend behaviours: for example, pretends to be asleep by covering self with a blanket.			
i) Links ideas in play in simple combinations: for example: puts doll in car then pushes car along.			
j) Recognises favourite toys, games or activities: for example, sees a character in a favourite book and brings same toy for adult to play with.			
k) Enjoys picture books and simple stories.			
Step 7 (15-19 months)	Beginning	Developing	Secure
a) Enjoys action games that involve standing, sitting, turning.			
b) Imitates adult activities and everyday routines: for example, sweeping, reading a book, fixing a bike, etc.			
c) Copies things they see and hear others doing around them: for example, phrases, parts of games, actions, etc.			
d) Collects items in a container to move around: for example, collects pebbles in a bucket or bricks in a shopping bag.			
e) Understands and follows stories read to them. Has favourite stories and characters.			
Step 8 (18-22 months)	Beginning	Developing	Secure
a) Joins in by singing, vocalising or moving whilst listening to music or playing with instruments/sound makers.			
b) Moves to music, listens to or joins in rhymes or songs.			
c) Repeats some pretend actions to more than one person: for example, gives parent/carer 'tea' to drink from an empty cup.			
d) Imitates everyday actions in pretend play: for example, brushing doll's hair, making beds, tasting food, cleaning dolls house, getting in the car, shopping, etc.			
Step 9 (21-25 months)	Beginning	Developing	Secure
a) Begins to build a repertoire of songs and dances expressing this through their preferred communication method.			
b) Enjoys and takes part in action songs, such as 'Twinkle Little Star'.			
c) Pretends that one object represents another, especially when objects have characteristics in common			
d) Spontaneously and independently makes a short pretend sequence: for example, pouring tea then drinking; washing and drying a doll; getting in a car and going to work.			
e) Enjoys dressing-up: for example, putting on hats or daddy's shoes; dressing up as a favourite character.			
f) Plays with playdough and makes different shapes. Will indicate to others what they have made.			

Expressive arts and design: BEING IMAGINATIVE AND EXPRESSIVE			
g) Creates sound effects and movements: for example, creates the sound of a car, animals.			
h) Plays alongside other children who are engaged in the same theme.			
i) Imitates an adult pouring tea, putting in milk and sugar, stirring and then giving to doll.			
Step 10 (24-31 months)	Beginning	Developing	Secure
a) Creates sounds by rubbing, shaking, tapping, striking or blowing.			
b) Sings/signs/indicates familiar songs: for example, pop songs, songs from TV programmes, rhymes, songs from home.			
c) Begins to make-believe by pretending.			
d) Plays dressing-up games.			
e) Uses other people's belongings in pretend play: for example: Mum's bag and brush.			
f) Creates imaginary objects, characters and scenes in play: for example, talks to an imaginary shopper as if they are the shop assistant.			
g) Adopts voice or manner of another person or animal in play: for example, moves like a cat and 'miaows'.			
Step 11 (30-36 months)	Beginning	Developing	Secure
a) Recalls and sings/signs entire songs.			
b) Engages in imaginative play based on own ideas or first-hand or peer experiences: for example, uses props to create different characters, such as a tool belt to become a builder.			
c) Uses doll, teddy, etc. as partner in play; talking to it and telling it what to do next.			
d) Takes part in simple pretend play, using an object to represent something else even though they are not similar: for example, uses a blanket to represent a river.			
e) Begins to make believe by pretending using sounds, movements, words/signs, and objects. Uses their preferred communication method to begin to describe sounds and music imaginatively: for example, 'scary music'.			
f) Uses construction materials as a means to an end: for example, making a road or house to be used as part of a game rather than as something simply to be explored.			
g) Uses everyday materials to explore, understand, and represent their world: their ideas, interests, and fascinations.			
h) Makes simple models which express their ideas.			
i) Begins to develop complex stories using small world equipment, such as animal sets, dolls and dolls houses, etc.			
Step 12 (35 – 41 months)	Beginning	Developing	Secure
a) Experiments and creates movement in response to music, stories, and ideas.			

Expressive arts and design: BEING IMAGINATIVE AND EXPRESSIVE			
b) Sings/signs and makes up simple songs.			
c) Can put sequences of movements together: for example, to create a simple dance routine.			
d) Uses drawing to represent ideas like movement or loud noises.			
e) Notices what other children and adults do, mirroring what is observed, adding variations, and then doing it spontaneously.			
f) Uses their preferred communication method to respond imaginatively to art works and objects: for example, 'this music sounds like dinosaurs'; 'that sculpture is squishy like this [child physically demonstrates]'; 'that peg looks like a mouth'.			
g) Makes imaginative and complex 'small worlds' with blocks and construction kits, such as a city with different buildings and a park.			
Step 13 (40-50 months)	Beginning	Developing	Secure
a) Creates their own songs/tunes, or improvises a song/tune around one they know.			
b) Sings the melodic shape of familiar songs.			
c) Sings the pitch of a tone sung by another person ('pitch match').			
d) Taps out simple repeated rhythms.			
e) Creates representations of both imaginary and real-life ideas, events, people, and objects.			
f) Continues to explore moving in a range of ways: for example, mirroring, creating own movement patterns.			
g) Creates sounds, movements, or drawings to accompany stories and ideas.			
h) Uses movement and sounds to express experiences, expertise, ideas, and feelings.			
i) Plays instruments with increasing control to express their feelings and ideas.			
j) Shows different emotions in their drawings and paintings, such as happiness, sadness, fear, etc.			
k) Uses available resources to create props, or creates imaginary ones to support play.			
Step 14 (50-60 months+)	Beginning	Developing	Secure
a) Explores and engages in music making and dance, performing solo or in groups.			
b) Sings in a group or on their own, increasingly matching the pitch and following the melody.			
c) Listens attentively, moves to and talks about music, expressing their feelings and responses using their preferred communication method.			
d) Develops storylines with increased detail using their preferred communication method.			
e) Introduces a storyline or narrative into their play using their preferred communication method.			

Expressive arts and design: BEING IMAGINATIVE AND EXPRESSIVE			
f)	Plays cooperatively as part of a group to create, develop, and act out an imaginary idea or narrative.		
g)	Using their preferred communication method, responds to comments and questions and can comment about their creations.		
h)	Chooses particular movements, instruments, sounds, colours, and materials for their own imaginative purposes.		
i)	Explores, uses, and refines a variety of artistic effects to express their ideas and feelings.		
j)	Initiates new combinations of movements and gestures in order to express and respond to feelings, ideas, and experiences.		
k)	Watches and comments about dance and performance art, expressing their feelings and responses using their preferred communication method.		
l)	Uses combinations of art forms: for example, moving and singing, making and dramatic play, drawing and talking/signing, constructing and mapping.		
EARLY LEARNING GOAL	Using the child's preferred communication method the child will: Invent, adapt, and recount narratives and stories with peers and their teacher. Perform a range of well-known nursery rhymes and songs. Perform, songs, rhymes, poems, and stories with others, and move in time with music.		