



SKILLS

CHECKLIST FOR TODDLERS



11 Skills Toddlers Master Before Words Emerge

DATE: _____

SKILL	HOW THIS SKILL LOOKS	YES	SOMETIMES	NO
Reacts to events in the environment	Child consistently reacts to things he sees, hears, and feels.			
Responds to people when they talk to or play with him or her	Child enjoys being around other people and responds to them consistently during conversations, activities, and routines.			
Takes turns with others during interactions	Child participates in extended back & forth exchanges with others.			
Develops a longer attention span	Child stays with many activities for at least 5 minutes alone and even longer with adults.			
Shifts and shares joint attention with others	Child shifts his attention between an object and you while you're sharing the same focus.			
Plays with a variety of toys appropriately	Child plays well with many different toys and uses familiar objects in everyday routines.			
Understands words and follows simple directions	Child completes many different verbal commands consistently.			
Vocalizes or makes sounds purposefully	Child is noisy and gets your attention by using his or her voice intentionally.			
Imitates actions, gestures, sounds, and words	Child copies what he sees and hears other people do and say.			
Uses early gestures like waving and pointing	Child communicates nonverbally using 10 to 15 different gestures.			
Initiates interaction with others to get needs met or to play	Child deliberately works to get your attention to meet his or her needs and to entice you to play with or notice them.			



CELEBRATE ALL YOUR “YES” ANSWERS!

THAT AREA IS A STRENGTH! LOOK AT YOUR “NO” ANSWERS AS LONG-TERM GOALS. YOU WILL EVENTUALLY TARGET THIS GOAL, BUT NOT JUST YET.

GET FASTER RESULTS BY FOCUSING ON SKILLS YOU MARKED AS “SOMETIMES.” IT’S EASIER TO BEGIN WITH THINGS A TODDLER IS ALREADY TRYING TO DO.



LCDA. KRISTINA A. DE LA MATA CASTRO

SPEECH PATHOLOGIST SPECIALIZED
AND CERTIFIED IN EARLY INTERVENTION