

# WIC Developmental Milestone Checklist Program

## Frequently Asked Questions

### COMMON QUESTIONS ABOUT MILESTONE CHECKLISTS

**When do we offer the checklists to parents?** Checklists should be given at certification and mid-certification appointments, except when an infant is younger than 2 months. There is no checklist for newborn to age 2 months.

*Note: Upon offering a checklist, or during other interactions, the parent might inform you that the child has already been diagnosed with a developmental delay or is receiving specialized services for developmental concerns (e.g., speech/language therapy, early childhood special education, or other early intervention like speech therapy). If that is the case, there is no need for the parent to complete a checklist or for a referral to be made. Often, this can be indicated in a child's record so the checklists are not brought up with the parent in the future.*

**What checklist do I use if the child was born prematurely?** If a child was born prematurely (<37 weeks gestation), offer the checklist that fits his or her corrected age, up until age 2 years. Find instructions for calculating corrected age here: <https://www.healthychildren.org/English/ages-stages/baby/preemie/Pages/Corrected-Age-For-Preemies.aspx>

**What do we do with the checklists when there is no need for a referral?** Give the checklist to the parent when the child is reaching his/her developmental milestones. Encourage the parent to share the Checklist with others (e.g., the child's healthcare provider, child care provider or teacher, family members).

**What do I do when a checkmark is missing next to a milestone that starts with "May..?"** So long as there are no other missing checkmarks, no checkmarks in the purple box, or any other concerns, rely on your professional judgement as to whether or not a referral is needed. Depending on a child's individual temperament, some milestones may be harder to observe than others. On the checklist, these milestones often begin with "May.. ." (e.g., "May be afraid of strangers"). For example, although young children are often afraid of strangers, the child may not exhibit that milestone at the specified age because of his/her temperament.

**What do I do if a parent is upset that their child is missing milestones?** Reassure the parent as you would when there is any concern (low iron, for example). You can say, "Children develop at their own pace; each child is different. But it's important to follow up with your healthcare provider to make sure. Just get it checked out."

**What do I do if a parent considers a referral to be criticism of their parenting skills?** You can say, "We know you are a good parent; that's why you'll want to check this out. We know you want to do all you can to help your child."

**Does this program overlap with what healthcare providers may be doing in terms of developmental milestones?** In some cases, it may. Young children grow and change quickly, so it's a great idea to do these kinds of checklists frequently. Most healthcare providers will agree that it's the best way to make sure a child's development is on track

**What can I expect if we have the parent "schedule a follow-up visit" with the child's healthcare provider?** The referral information and checklists you provide and the checklists will help parents explain why they scheduled a follow-up appointment. After the health care provider reviews the checklist, talks to the parent, and observes the child, they may do a routine developmental screening that further assesses a child's development.

**What if the child has already been diagnosed by a doctor or other healthcare provider with a developmental delay or disability?** The parent does not need to complete a checklist. You can also indicate this in the child's record so you can skip the checklists with this parent in the future.

**Can the WIC Milestone Checklist Program be billed to Medicaid?** No, it is not a developmental diagnostic or screening assessment.

## Common Questions About Program Materials

**How do we get more checklists?** Check your state website or contact your state/agency technical assistance person.

**Our WIC clinic is not allowed to access YouTube. How can we view the training video?** Contact your state technical assistance person.

**How can I tell the difference between the floor blocks and the wall blocks?** The wall and floor blocks differ in size and weight. There are two sizes of floor blocks: 12 X 12 and 12 X 24 inches; the wall blocks, on the other hand, are all 14 x 14 inches. Also, the floor blocks are heavier than the wall blocks.

**The floor blocks are not sticking. What should I do?** The floor blocks adhere well to most vinyl and tile flooring, but do not stick well to carpet. Contact your state or agency point of contact or the vendor that supplied the decals for additional support.

**Can we mop over the floor blocks?** If ordered per the recommended specifications, the floor blocks can be mopped over without damage; however, you will want to confirm this with the printer/fabricator.



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