

Assessment of the Infant: what to look at and things to ask

What to look at	What to ask
<p>1. Spontaneous Movement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amount • Quality • Variety vs. stereotypical • Obvious signs of tone 	<p>1. Good opening questions</p> <p>a. Do you have any concerns about your child's development?</p> <p>b. What does your baby enjoy? (This is a good first question if you are very uncertain about the baby's abilities)</p>
<p>2. Visual Skills</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eye contact: yes/no, quality, how easily elicited, what needs to happen • Visual follow: faces vs. coloured toys vs. black and white. Fluency. Vertical and horizontal. Across midline? 	<p>2. Routines</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is the baby in a routine? • What happens if the routine is disrupted? • Sleep patterns: how does baby get to sleep & support needed. How long does baby sleep for? • Feeding: any difficulties? What sort of foods? Gaining weight?
<p>3. Interaction</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Describe all aspects: with whom, how often, does infant initiate? • Imitation or imitative intent • Sounds / babbling • Turn-taking and "playing the game" • Enjoyment of When is best effort achieved? 	<p>3. General mood and interaction</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is the baby's predominant mood? (temperament) • Any frustrations? • Response to significant others? • Need for mum/carer close by / referencing
<p>4. Exploration of toys and Play</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What do they do spontaneously? Curiosity. • What can they imitate? • What can you do to elicit best performance? (incl toys, positioning etc) • Baby's response to new achievement/ 	<p>4. Play preferences</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are baby's favourite toys? • What does baby do with it? • For how long? • Favourite position for play • Can they play independently (ie without mum there)
<p>5. Self regulation, sensory processing, sensory integration</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Predominant state and activity level, no. of state changes, any quiet alert time? • Response to handling (respiratory, skin, heart rate, sats, state changes etc) • Response to stress and amplitude • Response to new environment and new toys • What does baby do to try and self-calm (incl self calming, use of dummy, hand to mouth) • Interaction with/ reliance on caregiver Indicators of attachment: baby's willingness to leave safe base, caregiver responses, caregiver responses to baby's cues 	<p>5. Sensory</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does the baby like rough play? (only if approp for age) • Is there anything the baby hates touching or eating? • How does baby respond to noisy environments/ quiet environments? • What is baby's activity level at home?
<p>6. Positional abilities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What can they do in prone, supine, sidelying, sit, stand • Transitions 	<p>6. Self regulation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Response to procedures • How upset and/or excited does the baby get? • How long does it take for the baby to recover? • What do they need to help them recover? • What makes the baby upset? How does he/she show it? • How does your baby let you know? Different cries? Easy to read?
<p>7. Strengths</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengths of the baby • Strengths of the caregiver 	<p>7. Social/Language</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sounds/babbling/words • Use of gesture • Imitation: do they imitate? What do they imitate? What happens if you imitate baby? • How easy is it to read baby's cues?



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