



## Early Childhood Concerns

Children not only grow physically, but also mentally. As the child grows older, there are specific age appropriate behaviours that we want to see during particular periods of life. These are referred to as Developmental Milestones. This is one way we observe how the child's brain is developing. Examples are: sitting, crawling, walking, speaking, dressing and feeding self, using the potty, developing preferred age appropriate social skills etc.

Children develop skills at their own individual pace and sometimes not in exactly the same order. So, when developmental milestones are slightly behind as other skills are also emerging, it is usually no cause for concern. The child may simply still be developing age-appropriately. But, when developmental milestones are not met within a broader or extended time frame, it may be a cause for concern and may need to be investigated by a paediatric team.

Oranga Tamariki provides the following guidelines for the schedule for developmental milestones for ages 0 – 5 at:

<https://www.orangatamariki.govt.nz/assets/Uploads/Caregiver-resources/Development-Milestones-0-to-5-Years.pdf>