

Social interaction, Emotional awareness, and Self-regulation

Birth to 2 months

- Briefly calm themselves
- Make eye contact
- Begin to smile at people

4-5 months

- Smile spontaneously
- Enjoy interactions
- Copies movements

6-8 months

- React positively to familiar faces and
- Begin to be wary of strangers
- Play with others
- Respond to their own name

9-11 months

- Show early signs of separation anxiety
- Cry more often when separated
- Clingy with familiar adults
- Become attached to specific toys/items
- Understand "no"
- Copy sounds and gestures of others

12-15 months

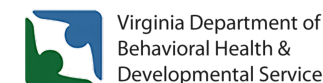
- Show fear in new situations
- Repeat sounds or actions to get attention
- Follow simple directions
- Show signs of independence & resist a caregiver's attempt to help

18 mo-2 years

- Need help coping with temper tantrums
- Begin to explore alone but with parent close by
- Engage in simple pretend or modeling behavior
- Demonstrate joint attention

2-year-olds

- Copy other adults and older children
- Show much more independence
- Show defiant behavior
- Follow simple instructions
- play alongside other children (parallel play), but begin to include other children in play



Atypical Social-Emotional Development

6 months



- Extreme irritability or unresponsive to caregivers

12 months



- Does not seek comfort when upset
- Hard to console
- Stiffens

18 months



- Shows few emotions
- no fear of strangers
- Does not seem to enjoy making caregiver laugh

24 months



- Kicks, bites, screams for no reason
- Does not show affection, likes or dislikes

36 months



- May show no signs of empathy
- Does not greet familiar people
- Continued aggression

(State of Nevada Health and Human Services, IDEA Part C Office, 2018)

