

# Larimer County Age Anchoring Tool

## Outcome 1: Positive Social Emotional Skills (including social relationships)

Children demonstrate age appropriate functioning by...

---

### 0–3 Months

- Fixating on the human face and maintaining gaze with caregiver
  - Turning their head and eyes in the direction of the parent voice
  - Being comforted and appearing to enjoy touch and being held by a familiar adult
  - Draws attention to self when in distress
- 

### 4–6 Months

- Anticipating being lifted or fed and moving body toward adult when being approached
  - Smiling spontaneously to human contact, smiling in play, and smiling at self in mirror
  - Vocalizes to express pleasure & displeasure sounds in addition to crying/cooing
  - Is able to stop unexplained crying
  - Enjoying games with others such as “Where is your nose?” and “So Big!”
  - Vocalizing in response to babbling behavior, vocalizations and speech produced by an adult
- 

### 7–9 Months

- Smiling and laughing during turn-taking
  - Participating in simple games (pat-a-cake, peek-a-boo)
  - Demonstrating anticipation of play activities
  - Exhibiting anxious behavior around unfamiliar adults
  - Using gestures and vocalizing to protest
  - Shouting or vocalizing to gain attention
  - Shows anxiety over separation from parents
  - Repeating a behavior (shows off) to maintain adult attention
-

---

## 10–12 Months

- Imitating familiar words in turn-taking
- Showing sensitivity to the mood of others
- Performing for social attention
- Responding to a request of “come here”
- Stopping when name is called
- Maintaining attention to speaker
- Responding with gesture to “come up” or “want up”
- Waving in response to “bye-bye”
- Saying “mama” or “dada” meaningfully
- Using a word to call a person
- Pushing or pulling an adult’s hand to have a behavior instigated or repeated
- Showing attachment to favorite toy or blanket
- Expressing two or more emotions (pleasure, fear, sadness)
- Briefly stopping behavior when told “no”

---

## 13–18 Months

- Pretending to talk on phone, feed a baby, comfort a doll, clean a spill
- Discriminating between familiar and unfamiliar people
- Showing awareness of the feelings of others
- Initiating familiar turn-taking routines
- Requesting assistance from an adult
- Hugs & kisses parents
- Demonstrating a functional use of objects such as trying to use a brush or drinking from a toy cup
- Gives a toy to caregiver spontaneously & upon request
- Having temper tantrums when frustrated
- Sometimes doing the opposite of what is asked of them

---

## 19–24 Months

- Shows a wide variety of emotions i.e., fear, anger, sympathy, modesty, guilt, joy
- “Checking-in” with familiar adults while playing
- Resisting change, transitions are difficult
- Show jealousy of attention given to others, especially own family
- Using vocalizations and words during pretend play
- Playing alone for short periods
- Recognizes self in photograph
- Uses concept “mine” to denote possessiveness

---

## 25–30 Months

- Being apt to snatch, push, kick, rather than give and take in polite fashion
- Throwing tantrums when frustrated
- Showing facial expression and behavior indicating pity, shame and modesty
- Being restless, rebellious and very active at times
- Becoming resistant and dawdling at times
- Separates easily in familiar surroundings
- Wanting to do favorite activities over and over again
- Continuing to try a difficult task for a brief period of time (building with blocks for 3 to 5 minutes)
- Insisting on some choices (food, clothing, appearance)
- Seeking and accepting assistance when encountering difficulties
- Inventing new uses for everyday materials with assistance (using a box for a house)
- May develop sudden fears (i.e. large animals)
- Displaying understanding of how objects work together (gets the dustpan when adult is sweeping the floor)
- Substituting similar objects (uses boxes for blocks)
- Realizing that behaviors can precede events (if mom takes things out the refrigerator and turns on the stove, she is going to cook lunch)
- Attempting to comfort others in distress
- Addressing listener appropriately to get attention (uses child's or adult's name to get attention)

---

## 31–36 Months

- Observing other children at play; may join in for a few minutes
- Playing well with two or three children in group
- Having difficulty sharing
- Showing facial expressions and behaviors indicating pity, shame, modesty
- Sometimes being restless, rebellious, very active
- Becoming resistant, dawdles
- Throwing tantrums when thwarted or unable to express urgent needs
- Objecting to major changes in routines
- Verbalizing play plan for assigned role (“I am mother” “You be baby” “I cook” “You watch TV”)
- Verbalizing play plan and using pretend props which are identified for benefit of adult (“This is our house (box)”)
- Following simple rules
- Taking turns in games
- Listening and participating in group activities with adult supervision
- Enjoying opportunities for pretend play and creating things (crafts, art)
- Altering behavior based on a past event and builds on it (“this didn’t work, so I will try this”)
- Relating an experience today to one that happened in the past (i.e. when Grandma comes over the dog has to be in the crate)
- Saying “please” and “thank you” when reminded
- Stating whether they are a boy or a girl
- Begins to obey and respect simple rules
- Takes prided in achievements
- Resists change, may want things done the same way
- May be able to participate in games that involve following simple directions and taking turns (i.e. “Duck, Duck, Goose”)

## Outcome 2: Acquisition and Use of Knowledge and Skills

Children demonstrate age appropriate functioning by...

---

### 0–3 Months

- Lifts head while on tummy
  - Clasping hands together and hands to mouth
  - Grasping finger if placed in palm
  - Kicking legs while lying on back
  - Begins cooing
- 

### 4–6 Months

- Beginning to reach for objects
  - Looking to place on body where being touched
  - Trying to cause things to happen such as kicking a mobile and smiling
  - Dropping a ball and observing the fall
  - Developing more precise imitation skills of facial movements and speech sounds
  - Securing an object that is partially hidden with a cloth
  - Pushing up through extended arms while on tummy
  - Repeating arm movements to keep a toy activated, keep mom singing, or causal event
  - Visually studies hands and objects, looks at mirror image
- 

### 7–9 Months

- Shows desire to get to things that are not within reach
- Sitting unsupported while playing with toys
- Plays 2-3 minutes with a single toy
- Reaching for and grasping blocks or other small toys
- Reaching for objects while on tummy

---

## 10–12 Months

- Pointing with index finger
- Imitating behaviors initiated by caregiver (playing peek-a-boo; smiling and laughing during turn-taking; or attempting to name pictures and objects)
- Banging blocks and other small toys together
- Repeatedly throwing or dropping objects to watch the movement
- Stirring with a spoon in a cup
- Banging a spoon on inverted cup or tabletop
- Demonstrates emerging problem solving skills such as (placing objects in the mouth and mouthing; pushing or pulling adult’s hands to have a behavior instigated or repeated; turning a picture or mirror over to view the functional side; rotating three-dimensional objects to view the functional side; using a hammer or stick to play a xylophone)
- Singing along with a familiar song
- Using gestures and/or vocalizing (grunts/whines) to protest
- Shouting or vocalizing to gain attention
- Responding to a request to “come here”
- Maintaining attention to speaker
- Responding with gesture to “come up” or “want up”
- Waving in response to “bye-bye”
- Saying “mama” or “dada” meaningfully
- Imitating consonant and vowel combinations
- Imitating non-speech sounds
- Vocalizing with intent frequently
- Using a word to call a person
- Giving objects upon verbal request
- Performing a routine activity upon verbal request
- Looking at familiar objects and people when named
- Understanding simple questions
- Identifying two body parts on self
- Demonstrating intense attention to adult language

---

## 13–18 Months

- Explores the environment independent of caregiver
- Turning the pages in a book
- Looking at, pointing to, and naming pictures in a book
- Imitating scribbling motions
- Initiating familiar turn-taking routines
- Begins to imitate sounds often, in turn taking conversational way
- Pointing to two action words in pictures
- Pointing to, showing, and giving an object
- Handing a toy to an adult for assistance

---

## 19–24 Months

- Identifying six body parts
- Choosing two familiar objects upon request
- Sorts objects by type (i.e. kitchen vs. animals)
- Can follow two different directions with a toy (i.e. put it in, turn it over, etc)
- Asking “What’s that?”
- Demonstrating symbolic play, using one object as a signifier for another object
- Attempting to repair broken toys
- Choosing one object from a group of five upon verbal request
- Stacking 5 or 6 blocks
- Using two word utterance sometimes combined with gestures, to communicate
- Using three-word phrases occasionally
- Imitating words overheard in conversation
- Naming 5 to 7 objects upon request
- Using new words regularly (adding 2 to 5 words a week)
- Spontaneously naming objects, person, and actions
- Following novel commands
- Tells about a personal experience
- Referring to self by name
- Using early pronouns occasionally
- Engaging in adult-like dialogue
- Uses speech understood by others 50% of the time
- Using sentence-like intonation patterns
- Makes a horizontal and vertical stroke with crayon

---

## 25–30 Months

- Liking to take things apart and put them together again (puzzles, toys)
- Following caregiver around the house and copying domestic activities in simultaneous play
- Identifying boy or girl in picture book
- Making doll/toy act on self as though capable of performing actions independent of child (placing brush in doll's arms, than moving the doll's arm as if doll is combing hair)
- Communicating about the actions of others
- Answering simple "what", "where" questions about familiar people or things
- Asking increasing numbers of questions ("where/what")
- Understanding negatives (no, not, can't, don't)
- Formulating negative judgments ("spoon, not fork")
- Recognizes at least one color correctly
- Understanding simple possessive forms (daddy's shirt)
- Understanding complex sentences ("when we get to the store, I'll buy you an ice cream cone")
- Pointing to smaller parts of the body when asked (chin, elbow)
- Recognizing and identifying general family names/categories (Grandma, Uncle)
- Recognizing the names and pictures of most common objects
- Understanding word association through functional association ("what do you drink with?", "What do you sleep on?", "What do you brush your teeth with?")
- Understanding size difference (little dog, large dog)
- Following directions involving common prepositions (in, on, behind, out)
- Enjoying finger plays (songs and games that use hands)
- Attempting to locate objects when they are discussed by others
- Speaking in 2 or 3 word sentences; jargon and speaking by imitation only are almost gone
- Often using personal pronouns (I, you, he, it, me) correctly
- Using regular plurals (cats, dogs, balls)
- Beginning to recall parts of a previously heard story
- Requesting to hear familiar stories
- Changing intonation and tone to communicate meaning
- Understanding "one", "all" ("Give me one block")
- Matching an object to a picture
- Matching simple shapes such as a circle, square and triangle

---

## 31–36 Months

- Understanding concepts of “mine” and “his/hers”
- Telling gender when asked
- Sometimes labeling and talking about own drawings when asked
- Giving first and last name when asked
- Using several verb forms correctly to describe a variety of actions (i.e. ing, ed)
- Expanding use of prepositions (under, in front of, behind)
- Understanding common adjectives of color, size, and shape
- Showing interest in explanations that involve “why” and “how”
- Using 4 to 6 word phrases or sentences
- Making negative statements (“Can’t open it,” “Don’t touch”)
- Beginning to use contractions (can’t, we’ll, won’t)
- Using some plural forms correctly in speech
- Using the past tense
- Dictating a story for adult to write out
- Performing multi-step tasks when playing (takes money, rings cash register, puts money in drawer)
- Beginning to use inductive reasoning (if you do this, that happens)
- Expressing understanding of cause and effect (it’s quiet because you turned off the music)
- Copying a circle
- Drawing a simple face
- Matching three colors
- Matching objects by color, shape and size

## Outcome 3: Use of Appropriate Behaviors to Meet Needs

Children demonstrate age appropriate functioning by...

---

### 0–3 Months

- Hands begin to open more and rest in open position
- Holds small objects or toys when placed in hand
- Follows moving object in range of 30 degrees either side of midline (object 10-12" away from baby's face)
- Responds to loud noise with startle or upset
- Responds to human voice more readily than any other sound
- Begins to produce different cries for different reasons
- Turning head to either side when lying on back
- Rooting-reflexive turning of mouth toward hand rubbing cheek
- Lifting and rotating head when lying on tummy or when held at shoulder
- Primary Standing-moving legs into extension for weight bearing when held upright (standing height) with feet contacting surface
- Walking-reflexive stepping when held upright with feet contacting surface, lifts feet alternatively in walking-like motion
- Kicks feet in bicycle motion when lying on back

---

## 4–6 Months

- Brings hands together in midline over chest when lying on back, i.e. places hands on bottle while eating, playing with own hands held together over chest
- Begins to reach and grasp or bat at objects, shakes or bangs toys on surface
- Brings objects to mouth, i.e. toys, pacifier, bottle (when not so full)
- Moves objects back and forth from one hand to the other
- Babbles with wide variety of sounds
- Rolling-tummy to back (over either L/R side) often comes before back to tummy
- Raises head and shoulders by resting on forearms/hands when on tummy to look around
- Sits with less and less support, tries to prop forward on arms to stay sitting or tries to raise self to sitting when leaning back, as in the car seat
- Reaches for and plays with feet
- Holds head up well in many positions to be able to see all around
- Enjoys bath-keeps eyes open and indicates pleasure when placed in warm water or plays by splashing

---

## 7–9 Months

- Holds an object in each hand and bangs them together
- Reaches for objects with either hand, one at a time, when lying on tummy
- Rakes at tinier objects with fingers
- Turns to look when name is called
- Begins to imitate sounds, often in turn-taking, conversational way
- Moves body to music
- Shows desire to get to things that are not within reach
- Rolling in both directions and may use sequential rolling to get somewhere
- Crawling on belly using both arms and legs symmetrically to propel 3+ feet
- Pulls up into standing position when helped with your hands and supports all of weight on legs
- Sitting on own once placed in that position to play
- Begins to participate when being dressed, pulls off socks or hat
- Grabs for spoon/cup when being fed

---

## 10–12 Months

- Points with index finger and activates toys using one finger
- Begins to develop more refined grasp using tips of finger and thumb to pick up much smaller things with precision
- Learns to voluntarily let go of what is being held, may throw objects
- Raises arms up when wanting to be picked up
- Expresses full range of emotion including resistive behavior
- Raises self to sitting position
- Creeps on hands and knees to get around
- Pulls up on furniture
- Cruises along furniture and/or walks with hands-on help
- Tries to climb to get to higher surfaces, crawls up stairs
- Fusses when uncomfortable in diaper
- Feeds self with fingers/sippy cup and tries to use small utensils

---

## 13–18 Months

- Able to pick up objects of all sorts of sizes and weights using either hand and precision with fingers
- Removes objects while holding on to container
- Places objects into large containers
- Uses wider variety of gestures to communicate wants and needs
- Begins to say words for the most familiar thing or people
- Follows simple directions, i.e. “Let’s go to the kitchen.”, “Find your shoes.”
- Can correctly match sound to object, i.e. doorbell, telephone
- Stands without support for brief periods
- Walks independently with good quality, needs guidance to ascend/descend stairs on feet
- Climbs up on couch or chair
- Removes loose clothing partially or completely
- Practices using child-sized fork and spoon to eat (non-liquids)
- Tries to help with tooth brushing

---

## 19–24 Months

- Tries to take things apart
- May enjoy marking/ drawing on paper with crayons or other writing tools
- Begins to place objects in containers with smaller openings
- Uses two word utterances, plus gestures, to express wants and needs
- Can answer questions with “yes” or “no” using head shake, gestures or words
- Expresses need for independence with doing things on own or asks for help when needed
- Follows 2 or 3 step directions
- Likes to imitate adult actions especially to “help out”
- Garners someone’s attention or takes someone’s hand to take them to something they want or want to show them
- Demonstrates more advanced movement and motor skills such as running and more proficient climbing, i.e. climbing out of the crib
- Attempts to jump down from step or raised surface
- Positions body more automatically to help put on clothing
- More developed skills with spoon and fork, less spilling
- Tries to wash own hands and face, comb hair

---

## 25–30 Months

- Opens doors by handle/knob
- Turning knobs on objects like radio or TV
- Catching ball (by trapping against body) when playing with adult or peer
- Knows where things are kept
- Puts things away to help clean up
- Uses non-verbal gestures and body language to express needs and feelings (hugs, hands on hips, etc.)
- Progressively more articulate with language to express thoughts and desires
- Walks up steps, alternating feet while holding rail or hand for support
- Sits on riding toys and pushes with feet; may ride tricycle
- Swings leg to kick stationary ball
- Plays on outdoor play structures (climbing, sliding)
- Attempts to jump with two feet together
- Puts on socks, coat and shirt
- Takes off own shoes, socks, and some pants as well as other unfastened garments
- Uses fork to spear bite sized chunks of food
- Knows which faucet is hot and cold
- Washes self in bath
- Interested in trying potty while still predominantly wearing diapers

---

## 31–36 Months

- Can problem solve and carry out a plan for getting something they need or want, i.e. while mom is distracted, gets forbidden marker out of desk drawer; prepares own simple snack like getting crackers and putting in bowl.
- Follows simple rules
- Separates easily from mother in familiar environment
- Hops in place on one foot (either foot) three time without losing balance
- Stands on one foot (either foot) for three seconds
- Jumps over object, i.e. string/rope, that is two inches high
- Walks upstairs alternating feet
- Walks downstairs four steps without support, placing both feet on each step
- Can dress and undress independently, including unbuttoning buttons, with few exceptions
- Asserts food preferences and recognizes what they are and are not allowed to eat
- Gets drink from fountain
- Follows basic health practices when reminded (washing/drying hands, brushing teeth)
- Verbalizes toilet needs fairly consistently
- Shows daytime control of toileting needs with occasional accidents