

Normal Child Development

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Table of contents

1 Why should we care about normal development?	1
2 Developmental sequence	1
3 Variability in Development	2
3.1 Intrinsic and Extrinsic factors	2
4 Theories in child development	2

1 Why should we care about normal development?

- Need a baseline for “normal” to identify problems
- Identifies atypical behavior

2 Developmental sequence

Darrah et al. (1998)

Darrah et al 1998, tested motor skills of 45 infants every month from 2 weeks to time of independent walking

- Ton of variability is what he found
- Created Alberta Infant Motor Scale (AIMS)
- LARGE variation in motor skills in first year
- All pts will present differently, Examination is a snapshot of what happens in that moment
 - Could differ (dependent on emotion, sleepiness, etc)

- So may not be entirely accurate– must keep in mind

3 Variability in Development

3.1 Intrinsic and Extrinsic factors

- **Individual:** physiology (ie height weight of baby), temperament, cognition
(one with lower cognition will have less motivation to move)
- **Environment:** immediate microsystem → womb, family, home, surroundings, peers
 - (could also be in utero environment, was there trauma w their pregnant person)
- **Exosystem:** extended family, neighborhood, school
- **Macrosystem:** community, economic system, culture

4 Theories in child development

[Read more about theories in child development](#)