

Activity Sheet

Should I be Concerned?

Read each scenario describing the behavior of a child. As you read, keep the child's age and stage of development in mind, and underline any behaviors that raise a red flag for you. Then circle whether you think the behavior described is typical or atypical, for each scenario.

1. A six month old boy is most content when left to himself in the swing, in the crib, on the floor, etc. He will sit for hours and coo and gurgle to himself. When you call his name while talking to him he has no reaction. When you interact with him during diaper changes or tummy time his eyes are always focused on something else, he never makes eye contact with you. When you pick him up he cries and squirms as if he's trying to get away from you.

Typical

Atypical

2. An 18 month old girl tends to engage primarily in parallel play, playing alongside others but not necessarily with them. One day you take a basket of balls out of the closet. When she sees the balls she gets excited and claps her hands. You roll a ball toward her and she smiles. You tell her to get the ball and she does. When you ask her for the ball back she says "no, no", shakes her head from side to side and walks away from you.

Typical

Atypical

3. A 2 year old boy is fascinated by the wheels on objects-bicycles, toy cars, wagons, etc. If he can spin them he will, over and over, watching them rotate around in a hypnotic like state. If he can't spin them himself, say on a car or bus driving down the road, he just watches them go around and around. When you ask him about the wheels or the objects they are attached to he never responds. In fact, he doesn't say much at all.

Typical

Atypical

4. A 3 year old boy is always on the go-riding bikes, throwing balls and playing games like tag or catch with his peers. Sometimes it seems as if he never stops moving. He can be a bit shy and sometimes has trouble with meeting new people or making new friends, but once he's comfortable with someone he is eager to give them a high five or a hug and tell them all about his day.

Typical

Atypical

5. A 3 year old girl's two favorite activities are looking at books and playing with dolls. When she reads to herself or speaks for her dolls it's always in a very monotone voice, similar to that of a robot. She's always moving, constantly swaying in a back and forth motion. When she is content it's a very slight movement, that's sometimes not very noticeable at all. But when she's upset or uncomfortable the rocking gets more pronounced. She never initiates conversations with her peers or adults, and when asked a question she gets right to the point with her answer, never offers additional information or asks follow up questions to keep a conversation alive. She often makes others feel uncomfortable because she will sit right next to them or sometimes on them, and when she does talk to others she puts her face very close to the other person's.

Typical

Atypical