

Developmental milestone or level	Chronological age	Characteristics of each level
Level 1: Self-regulation and interest in the world	0–3 months	Internal regulation and homeostasis. Uses sight, smell, sound, touch, and taste to self-regulate. Balances growing awareness of sensations with the ability to remain calm.
Level 2: Attachment and Engagement in relationships	2–7 months	Forming a special relationship. Deep bond or “falling in love with a parent or caregiver.” Builds a foundation for future relationships.
Level 3: Two-way purposeful communication	3–10 months	Purposeful communication using gestures, vocalisations, facial expressions to open and close circles of communication (CoC) (3 circles or more).
Level 4: Behaviour organisation, problem solving, and internalization	9–18 months	Complex sense of self. Engages in a continuous flow of interactions, closing at least 10, 20 or more CoC through negotiation, problem solving. Experiences various emotions: closeness, pleasure, assertive curiosity, fear, and anger (3 circles or more).
Level 5: Representational capabilities	18–30 months	Internal representation (imagery). Learns that things and feelings can be named and mentally represented. Development of symbolic or pretend play. Closing and opening of CoC during symbolic play (10 circles or more). Speech is increasingly used to open/close CoC.
Level 6: Representational differentiation	30–48 months	Logical bridges between ideas and feelings. Connects pretend sequences together logically. Development of abstract thinking (what, when, how, and why questions).

Adapted from: Greenspan, S. I., DeGangi, G., & Wieder, S. (2001). *The Functional Emotional Assessment Scale for Infancy and Childhood, FEAS*. Bethesda, MD: Interdisciplinary Council on Developmental and Learning Disorders. Greenspan, S. I., & Wieder, S. (1998). *The child with special needs: Encouraging intellectual and emotional growth*. Reading, MA: Perseus.