



# FUNCTIONAL DEVELOPMENTAL LEVEL DESCRIPTIONS

## FDL 1: Self-Regulation & Shared Attention

### Begins between birth & three months

- Can remain calm and regulated enough to share attention with people
- Can sustain brief episodes of interaction
- Child is 'with us'
- Regulation derailed by Comfort Zone activities (Stimming, scripting, lining up, etc. remove attention)
- When you see CZ, child has holes in FDL 1
- Use Rabbit Hole Techniques to join the child at FDL

## FDL 2: Engagement & Relating

### Begins between two & seven months

- More sustained attention = engagement
- You call to them and they look – circles begin!
- Key question: how easy is it to engage the child?
- This is the *sweat* level. The parent/professional must do the work (i.e. sweat) to keep the child engaged
- Hard to follow child's lead, but you can!
- Watch for visual activities
- Use Rabbit Hole Techniques

## FDL 3: Intentionality & Two-Way Communication

### Begins between three & ten months

- Opening and closing of 6-10 circles
- Key activities: simple cause and effect games (peek-a-boo)
- Key question: is the child initiating?
- We want to 'create a monster' (i.e. the child won't leave you alone!)
- Purposefulness
- This is the *wait* level. The parent/professional must wait and see if the child will initiate (i.e. open circles)
- Beginning of understanding routines
- Beginning of first single words



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## FDL 4: Social Problem-Solving & Mood Regulation

**\*Begins between nine & eighteen months**

- Opening and closing of 10-30 circles
- Solid 4 = Totally 'with us,' there is a continuous flow of interaction
- Gestural communication along with words, imitation
- 50+ words
- Follows spontaneous one step commands: get, give, bring
- Feelings are more organized
- Problem solver! Has his/her own ideas
- 'Little stories': 'gets' meaningful sequences
- Simple pretend: phone to ear, bottle to baby's mouth

## FDL 5: Creating Symbols & Using Words & Ideas

**Begins between twenty-four & thirty months**

- Classic two-year-old communication
- 1-2-word phrases
- "What," "Where," "Who," actions, yes/no
  - Not open-ended What, "Why" or "When" or pronouns
- One thematic pretend play with adults
- Follows one-two step commands
- Greetings emerging
- Compliance
  - It is not following their lead to follow their lead

## FDL 6: Emotional Thinking, Logic & Sense of Reality

**Begins between thirty-six & forty-eight months**

- Talking in short to long sentences
- Why and when questions
- Can recall the immediate past (what did you eat for breakfast?)
- Builds bridges between ideas
- Identifies own and others' feelings
- Recognizes relationship between feeling, behavior, and consequences
- Two thematic play
- Carries on simple conversations
- Peer established play
- Misbehavior as developmental accomplishment
- Two ideas connected logically