

FACT SHEET:

Category:
Life After ABI
Parenting

Audience:
Person with an ABI

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Reviewed Jan 2021

For review Jan 2022
ABIOS Manager




ABIOS


Acquired Brain Injury Outreach Service





Child Development


All children develop at different rates. The rate that they develop at is a combination of their genetic make-up, temperament and life experiences. This information is a guide only. Any concerns or questions you have about your child's development should be shared with your doctor, a child health nurse, or a teacher or child care worker.

Age	Social and Emotional Development	Language and Communication	Behaviour
Infants (0 – 12 months) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Likes to be cuddled and enjoys attentionWill cry if left alone or unhappyWill start to explore the environment and puts objects in their mouthWill laugh when happyMay show signs of attachment to one parentMay show fear of strangers or unfamiliar situationsWill show a broad range of facial expressionsShows a preference for different foods and favourite foods/toys	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Will communicate with cooing and babblingReacts to sudden noisesWill recognize parents voicesWill cry to get attentionWill begin to understand simple requestsWill imitate sounds and babbleMay start to say a few wordsWill imitate gestures and facial expressionsWill laugh more frequently	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Wants to discover and explore the world around himWill experiment with objects to see how they workMay do things like pinching, biting or hair pulling to find out what happens

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<p>Toddlers (1-3 years)</p> 	<p>Early toddler years - will like to interact with people by being held, listening to stories or giving them objects</p> <p>Can recognise himself in pictures and mirrors</p> <p>Will be able to play alone with toys, but will start to interact with other children</p> <p>Will like to imitate people, observe and learn from others</p> <p>Will have a limited ability to share</p> <p>Beginning of a sense of personal identity and belongings</p> <p>Enjoys physical affection</p> <p>At times seeks to please</p>	<p>Will start to use a range of words</p> <p>Will start to put words together in simple sentences</p> <p>Will follow simple instructions and obey simple rules</p> <p>Will be able to understand and follow instructions</p> <p>Will be curious about everything in their environment and often asks “why” questions</p> <p>Will express anger verbally rather than physically</p> <p>More responsive to humour and distraction than discipline and reason</p>	<p>Will test boundaries</p> <p>Will throw tantrums and display disobedience</p> <p>Are very curious about their world</p> <p>Children will often misbehave when in particular situations such as when visitors arrive, on a shopping trip or when traveling in the car</p> <p>Will often interrupt, fight or argue with each other or refuse to tidy up after themselves or refuse to get ready to go out</p> <p>Limited ability to choose between alternatives</p> <p>May be resistant to change</p> <p>Copies parent’s actions</p>

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<p>Preschoolers (3-5 years)</p> 	<p>Will be more independent and may refuse help</p> <p>Will be able to cope with separation from parents</p> <p>Will be interested in more complicated pretend play</p> <p>Will become socially aware – wants to be liked</p> <p>May have a few close friends</p> <p>Will be able to accept fair punishment</p> <p>May be defiant</p> <p>Emotionally fairly stable with strong ties to the main caregiver</p>	<p>Will enjoy having conversations with adults</p> <p>Will be eager to please</p> <p>Will talk more freely to others</p> <p>Will be able to describe events and people</p>	<p>Will be defiant or disruptive from time to time</p> <p>Will have temper outbursts</p> <p>Will be easily distracted</p> <p>Will need lots of reminders</p> <p>Will be empathetic towards others</p> <p>Will get frustrated if disturbed in their play</p> <p>Can understand consequences (eg feeling cold for refusing to put on jumper)</p> <p>May have occasional tantrums</p>

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<p>School ages (5-8 years)</p> 	<p>Play with other children appropriately</p> <p>Being with friends becomes increasingly important</p> <p>Wants to play more with similar friends—girls with girls, boys with boys</p> <p>May have a “best” friend</p> <p>Excitable and impulsive</p> <p>Changeable, unstable, inconsistent, forthright thoughtless</p> <p>Starts to develop sense of responsibility</p> <p>Growing self assurance</p> <p>Criticizes the behaviour of others and worries about his own</p> <p>By 9 more balanced, level-headed and practical</p>	<p>Still trying to learn about everyday things such as how to talk to each other</p> <p>Talk in complete sentences using intelligible speech</p> <p>Recognize most letters, shapes, and numbers</p> <p>Sorts items and counts numbers</p> <p>Recognize and identify some letter and phonic sounds</p>	<p>Increasingly independent with hygiene and self care eg dressing self, toileting etc</p> <p>Can contribute to the running of the household eg making beds, doing dishes etc</p> <p>May lie or distort the truth</p> <p>May swear</p> <p>Likes to follow the rules</p> <p>Can be impetuous at times</p> <p>May be a bad-loser and tattle-tale</p> <p>By 9 they have developed better manners and self-control, they show an understanding and concern for proper behaviour</p>

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<p>Adolescence (10 years onwards)</p> 	<p>More complex view of the world as they hit puberty</p> <p>Wants to blend in and not stand out from their peers.</p> <p>Feel concerned about outward appearance</p> <p>Become self-conscious and self-centered</p> <p>Have ambivalent, conflicting feelings about sexual desire and want to be independent and to conform</p> <p>Care greatly about relationships with peers, friendships, dating and crushes and give peers more importance than family</p> <p>Experience feelings of insecurity and begin to doubt self-concept and previous self confidence.</p> <p>Struggle with family relationships and desire privacy and separation from family.</p>	<p>Sometimes adolescents will become withdrawn and not want to talk about things</p> <p>Defends self with acute criticism of parents' behaviour</p>	<p>May have increasing conflict with parents over desires to become more independent</p> <p>May wish to have more privacy, spend more time with friends</p> <p>Appearance will start to become more important to them</p> <p>Will express their opinions more forcefully</p> <p>Test limits and push for independence</p> <p>Rebels against perceived unfair treatment by parents</p> <p>Indulges in noisy self-expression, eg dancing and singing</p>

