

Observation of Visual and Manual Behaviors at 4-5 Months

The checklist includes all the manual behaviors commonly observed in typically developing infants at 4-5 months.

The presence of the different behaviors is influenced by the infant's level of arousal, interest in a toy and start position, as well as the presence, size, shape and position of toys in the environment.

Level of arousal and attention	
The level of arousal is influenced by the social environment and interactions as well as the presence of interesting objects within reaching distance	
Focused attention is usually associated quieting of limb movements	
Head, trunk and lower extremity posture, stability and movements	
► Maintains head in the midline except when turning to look at interesting events in the environment.	
► Trunk is symmetrical and steady when moving the head and extremities	
► Lies with the lower extremities in extension or flexion, and engages in kicking movements some of the time	
Upper extremity (UE) posture and movements	
► Lies with the shoulders and elbows flexed and hands in the midline. UEs lifted up off the supporting surface. (This pattern is typically seen at 3-4 months).	
► Lies with one or both shoulders in abduction with elbows flexed or extended, some or most of the time.	
Assumes different hand postures	
► Holds hands lightly fisted with thumb resting against lateral border of the forefinger	
► Extends fingers and thumb - especially when elbow is extended	
► Points ³ with forefinger	
► Thumb to forefinger	
► Flexion of ring and little finger	

Spontaneous visual and manual exploration	
► Brings the hands to the midline and pays attention to them	
► Brings the hands together and touches the mouth	
► Brings the hands together and touches the nose/forehead.	
► Touches the head and face with one hand with an open hand	
► Touches the trunk with an open hand - fingers clothing	
► Fingers and grasps clothing or soft cloth	
► Touches the surrounding support surface - moves hand across surface	
► Touches surfaces with hand open and scratches surface (repeated finger flexion and extension)	
Reach, grasp, transport and manipulation	
► Looks at the toy in a sustained manner	
► Sustains grasp of a toy and transports it to the mouth or to the other hand.	
► Reaches for the toy with one or both hands. Opens the hand as at the start of the reach	
► Aligns the hand with the toy towards the end of the reach.	
► Touches the toy and adjusts hand position for effective grasp	
► Holds the toy with one hand and fingers the toy with the other hand	
► Grasps the toy with both hands hand moves it to the mouth.	
► Grasps a toy and passes it to the other hand	
► Spends time exploring and manipulating suspended toys.	