

Observation of Visual and Manual Behaviors at 4-8 weeks

The checklist includes all the manual behaviors commonly observed in typically developing infants at 4-8 weeks

Level of arousal and attention	
The level of arousal is influenced by the social environment, events in the environment as well as the presence of interesting objects within reaching distance	
Focused attention usually associated quieting of limb movements	
An increased level of arousal increases the spontaneous movement of the limbs	
Head, trunk and lower extremity posture, stability and movements	
► Head mainly turned to one or the other side	
► Turns/orients head to look at events in the environment	
► Trunk posture still influenced by limb movements	
► Lies with the lower extremities in extension or flexion, and engages in kicking movements some of the time	
Visual attention	
Sustained attention to own hand when it moves into the infant's visual field	
Particular interest in other people's moving hands	
Sustained attention to caregiver's face - when head supported in the midline.	
Upper limb (UL) posture and movements	
► Spontaneous large range movements of the of UL still present	
► Movement synergies still present • Extension adduction of shoulder with elbow extension and hand opening • Shoulder abduction with lateral rotation, with elbow flexion	
► When lying quietly one or both shoulders in some abduction with elbows flexed or extended, some or most of the time.	

Hand movements and postures	
▶ Holds hands lightly fisted with thumb resting against lateral border of the forefinger	
▶ Opening and closing of the hand seen	
▶ Individual finger movements are seen	
▶ Points with forefinger	
▶ Thumb to forefinger	
▶ Flexion of ring and little finger	
▶ Touches the head and face with an open hand	
▶ . Starting to explore surrounding surfaces with hands – moves hands across surfaces, hand lightly fisted.	
▶ Touches the trunk and limbs – hand lightly fisted	
▶ Feet also explore surfaces and each other	
Reach, grasp, transport and manipulation	
▶ Looks at the toy in a sustained manner	
▶ Swipes UL in direction of toy within reach	

Foundation Manual Behaviors: Newborn to 5 months

Bibliography

<http://tomt.skillsforaction.com/dev/hands/foundation-manual-behaviors>

Tutorials in Upper Limb and Hand Function

<http://tomt.skillsforaction.com/hands/tutorials-in-ul-hand-function>

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