Early Learning Matters

Because parents are their children's first, best teachers.

Benchmarks	
Age 0 – 3 mo.	
Physical Development: Sensory	Prefers bright colors Tracks visually & makes eye contact Holds an object, but won't reach for it Starts to coo and smile (repeat the sounds that the child makes) Bonding with caregiver (touching and holding child is important) Basic needs need to be met - feeding, touching React to familiar scents – (calms when given a familiar blanket)
Physical Development: Health and Physical Well-Being	Tracks visually & makes eye contact Feeding, touching Basic need met Cries as way to communicate
Physical Development: Large muscle	Develops neck & arm – tummy time is important Holds an object
Physical Development: Small muscle	Tracks visually & making eye contact Grasps object
Emotional Development: Attachment	Tracks visually & makes eye contact Starts to coo and smile – (repeat the sounds that the child makes) Bonding with caregiver – (touching and holding child is important) Basic needs need to be met - Feeding, touching Cries is their way of communicating
Emotional Development: Sense of self	Identity is based on caregiver
Emotional Development: Mutual and Self Regulation	Calms when comforted
Emotional Development: Emotions of self and others	Cries for communication
Social Development: Social Interaction with adults & peers	Tracks visually & makes eye contact Repeats sounds Bonds with caretaker Cries to communicate Coos & smiles Basic need to be met (touch / feeding)

Communication & Language: Listening & Understanding	Makes eye contact 1-2 minute attention span Starts to coo and smile – repeat the sounds that the child makes Bonds with caregiver – touching and holding child is important Basic needs need to be met - feeding, touching Cries as their way of communicating
Communication & Language: Early Literacy	Tracks visually & making eye contact 1-2 minute attention span Starts to coo and smile (repeat the sounds that the child makes)
Thinking Skills & Cognitive Development:	*See Physical Development: Sensory Learning*
Mathematics & Numeracy	
4 – 6 months	
Physical Development: Sensory	Imitates sounds Begins to recognize their name when spoken Discovers their body parts Shows emotion – crying when important person leaves Uses hands – passing back and forth Starts to see colors, shapes, patterns, pictures – loves flashing lights Turns toward a sound and looks for its source.
Physical Development: Health and Physical Well-Being	Eats to fullness Responds to regular daily routines (diaper change, feeding)
Physical Development: Large muscle	Rolls over Sits with support Bears weight on legs Scoots and bounces
Physical Development: Small muscle	Passes object from one hand to another Reaches for object with one hand (using a raking motion)
Emotional Development: Attachment	Imitates sounds Begins to recognize their name when spoken Shows emotion – crying when important person leaves Plays independently
Emotional Development: Sense of self	Begins to recognize their name Discovers their body parts Looks at self in mirror
Emotional Development: Mutual and Self Regulation	Consistent schedule Calms self with a self-soothing technique (pacifier)

Emotional Development: Emotions of self and others	Uses different cries for different needs Cries when a familiar person leaves
Social Development: Social Interaction with adults & peers	Responds to another baby crying Recognizes own name Imitates sounds Cries when important person leaves Matches facial expressions Plays independently
Communication & Language: Listening & Understanding	Imitates sounds Begins to recognize their name when spoken Shows emotion – crying when important person leaves
Communication & Language: Early Literacy	Imitating sounds Begins to recognize their name when spoken Uses hands – developing fine motor skills Starting to see colors, shapes, patterns, pictures – loves flashing lights
Thinking Skills & Cognitive Development:	*See Physical Development: Sensory Learning*
Mathematics & Numeracy	