

TABLE 4. Psychosocial Development

AGE IN MONTHS	EMOTIONAL	SOCIAL	ADAPTIVE	RED FLAGS
1-3	Interest Disgust Distress (pain, hunger) Enjoyment (social smile)	Understands relationships between voices and faces Bonding (parent → infant) Smiles reciprocally Follows moving person with eyes	State regulation Requires only one night feeding	
3-6	Anger Happiness Joy Pleasure Sadness Displeasure	Recognizes mother Attachment (infant → parent) Anticipates food on sight Smiles spontaneously		Absent smile may indicate visual loss, attachment problems, or maternal depression
6-9	Personality unfolds Fear	Discriminates emotional facial expressions and reacts differently Preference for a given person Stranger anxiety Understands means-to-an-end relationship in social interactions (act → clap → repeat act)	Gums/swallows cracker Places hands on bottle Takes solids well Finger feeds dry cereal	Absent stranger anxiety may be due to multiple care providers (eg, NICU care)
9-12	Assertiveness Cautiousness	Differential fear response based on gender and age Concept of self Social interactions become intentional and goal-directed Separation anxiety	Holds bottle Holds, bites, chews cracker/cookie Drinks from cup held for him or her	
12-15	Shyness Empathy Sharing Self-comfort (eg, attachment to blanket)	Solitary play Begins formation of relationships <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Love • Friendship • Acquaintance • Strangers Offers ball to mirror image Kisses by simply touching lips to skin or licks	Cooperates with dressing Drinks from cup; some spillage Removes socks/hat	
15-18	Shame/guilt Contempt	Self-conscious period; "coy" stage Hugs parents	Uses spoon; some spillage	Lack of social relatedness may indicate autism
18-21	Associates feelings with verbal symbols Begins to have thoughts about feelings	First application of attributes to self (eg, good, little, naughty) Initiates interaction by calling to adult Kisses with a pucker	Drinks from cup without spilling Moves about house without adult Emerging independence Removes a garment	
21-24	Beginning "socialization" of emotional expression by social/cultural influences <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • modulation of emotion • masking of emotion Infant's reaction to ambiguous events is shaped by emotional reactions of others	Imitates others to please them Recursive nature of social thought (ie, thinking about "How I behave to you and you to me") Parallel play Tolerates separation; will continue activity	Replaces some objects where they belong Uses spoon well Opens door by turning knob Removes clothes without buttons Unzips zippers Puts shoes on part way	Persistent poor transitions may indicate a pervasive developmental disorder