

Child Care Connections

We are a registered private non-profit agency that has been serving our 10 county region since 1979. As an advocate for high quality child care programs, Child Care Connections regularly assists child care professionals with

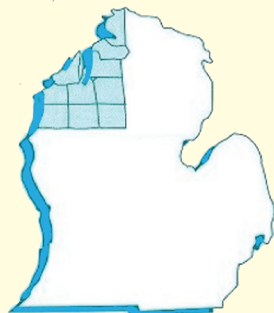
- a lending library
- trainings that focus on the care of children with special needs, infants and toddlers, and curricular enhancement
- advancements in education and training
- resources and information
- technical assistance
- sponsorship of the Child and Adult Care Food Program
- coordinates with other agencies to address issues affecting children and families

Parents are served through provider referrals and access to parenting resources and information. For a list of providers, parents and guardians may visit:
www.greatstartconnect.org

Our Service Area

We serve the following counties:

Antrim
Benzie
Charlevoix
Grand Traverse
Kalkaska
Leelanau
Manistee
Missaukee
Wexford



(231) 941-7767 or (800) 968-4428 (toll free)
(231) 941-9412 (fax)

www.childcarenwmi.com

Our Mission

To promote and strengthen quality child care.



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Understanding Your Child's Development

Six Months Old



Great Start Regional Resource Center



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SIX MONTHS

Child development not only encompasses a child's growth, it also shows the path as a child becomes able to do more complex activities. Although the "age specific tasks" listed can be used as benchmarks, the actual development rate is different for each and every child. These tasks are not tests; instead they indicate a continuum that human development follows. The differences from one individual to another are just a small part of what make each child so unique.

Physical Development

Measures: 24"-28"

Nutrition: Signs to begin solid foods include a strong interest in table food, becoming able to sit, the digestive enzymes are developed internally, and the first tooth may even appear. Introducing a variety of solid foods can satisfy his interests as well as set the tone for healthy eating as he continues to grow. Babies need iron, which can be found in baby cereal, spinach, and green peas. The body absorbs iron more efficiently with vitamin C rich foods. Solid foods should be fruits and vegetables and should be introduced on a weekly basis in case of allergies.

Sleeps: Sleep is becoming more organized. He can sleep up to ten to twelve hours per night, and naps are taken two to three times daily.

Weights: Thirteen to twenty pounds

Movement

Gross Motor: A six month old has a matured cerebellum which allows the baby to have enough balance to sit upright with some support, though he may still fall from one side to the other. He creeps forward using his arms and trying to push with his feet.

Fine Motor: The six month old can hold and manipulate objects, and drop and transfer them from hand to hand. His movements are all purposeful. He can pick up objects by raking his hands and using all four fingers.

Intellectual Development

Perception: A six month old is able to look at objects and the environment from various perspectives.

Interest: A six month old inspects objects closely, showing interest in containers and his mirror image.

Problem-solving: He is starting to look to see where things that he has dropped have gone. His attention is more concentrated.

Socio-emotional Development

Expressive: A six month old vocalizes plea-

sure and displeasure with coos, squeals, grunts, growls, gurgles and giggles.

Interaction: He smiles at his mirror image, prefers play with people (peek a boo), and watches the effects of his actions upon objects in his environment by dropping, banging and throwing.

Language

At six months, the first syllables can be detected, and they are repeated over and over again. Vowel and consonant combinations are used. He is understanding his first words. Intonation patterns are becoming more distinct. He will initiate conversations with people and say several sounds in one breath. He is very interested in jaws, teeth, mouths, and tongues. He will begin to label objects in the environment with certain sounds.

Activities

A six month old loves to look (and smile) at his mirror image. Placing a low bar to pull himself up on near the mirror encourages new movement. Talking to him, playing with him, and providing rattles, soft balls with bells in them, and toys of different shapes and textures are favorite activities. Safe household objects can be handled and explored with interest. Freedom of movement is as necessary for brain development as proper nutrition is.