

TPBA2 Age Table: Conceptual Development

Directions: Based on the observations recorded on the TPBA2 Observation Guidelines and/or TPBA2 Observation Notes, review the Age Table to determine the age level that most closely matches the child's performance. It may be helpful to circle items on the Age Table that the child can do. If items are circled across multiple age levels, find the child's age level by finding the mode (i.e., determine which age level has the most circled items). Age levels after 12 months/1 year represent ranges rather than individual months and are preceded by "By." If the most circled items appear in one of these age levels, consider the child's age level to be the month shown (e.g., if the most circled items appear in the "By 21 months" level, the child's age level for that subcategory is 21 months).

Note: This Age Table is an extension of the Cognitive Development Age Table.

Age level	Conceptual knowledge: Math and science	Conceptual knowledge: Emerging literacy
1 month	Perceives patterns and categorizes familiar people and objects	Looks at contrasting patterns
2 months	Distinguishes animate (moving) from inanimate	Touches pictures
3 months	Clearly discriminates voices, people, tastes, proximity, and object size	Responds to a variety of sounds (0–3 months) Can locate the direction of a sound's origin (0–3 months)
4 months	Differentiates and responds to various sounds in the environment (e.g., mother's voice) Makes voluntary movements with intent	Intently looks at pictures for several minutes (2–4 months)
5 months	Recognizes familiar objects Uses shape, size, and color to tell the difference between objects	Listens to adult while attending to pictures
6 months	Can make things happen Likes to look at things upside-down Explores body parts with hands and mouth	Recognizes familiar objects and people (3–6 months) Starts to make verbal sounds such as "coo" (3–6 months) Can organize sounds into patterns and phrases (3–6 months)
7 months	May compare two objects Distinguishes near and far objects in space	Brings book to mouth to chew or suck (4–7 months)
8 months	Shows recognition of names of objects by looking at them when named	Holds book in both hands (6–8 months) Explores and manipulates books (e.g., opens, closes) (6–8 months) Helps adult turn pages by pressing pages to the left after adult has separated out each succeeding page (7–8 months) Offers book to adult to read
9 months	Is aware of vertical space; fears height	Begins to babble (6–9 months) Looks at pictures when named (8–9 months) "Mama/dada" used as nonspecific terms
10 months	Shows interest in combining objects Experimenting with causal actions on objects	Reaches for and grasps books (5–10 months) Shakes, crumbles, waves papers (5–10 months) Vocalizes while pointing to pictures (7–10 months) Gestures to request repeated reading of a book (8–10 months) Sits on adult's lap for extended periods of time to look at books (8–10 months)
11 months	Shows spatial understanding: puts things in/out, off/on (11+ months) Identification with the same sex (11+ months) Associates properties with objects (e.g., sounds of animals, location of objects)	Turns pages, but not necessarily one at a time Begins to label objects (11+ months) Moves to rhythms

Age level	Conceptual knowledge: Math and science	Conceptual knowledge: Emerging literacy
12 months or 1 year	Learns characteristics of objects through observation and actions (7–12 months) Uses first meaningful word for an object (10–12 months)	Pulls books off shelf (6–12 months) Prefers pictures of faces (6–12 months) Pats pictures and vocalizes (6–12 months) Decreased physical manipulation of books decreases (8–12 months) Independently attends to books (8–12 months) Turns pages independently; may have difficulty separating pages but is persistent in trying (8–12 months) Laughs or smiles at a familiar picture, usually when an adult makes an interesting sound or reads in an interesting way (8–12 months) Points to individual pictures when named by adult (8–12 months) WRITING SKILLS Imitates scribble (8–12 months)
By 15 months	Attends to specific physical characteristics of objects Combines related objects (e.g., dress on doll) Shows categorization of function (e.g., pail and shovel) Places objects into categories (e.g., food, animals, plants) Can place round circle in puzzle (12–15 months)	Sustains interest for at least 2–5 minutes looking at named pictures Makes animal sounds when looking at pictures of animals in book (10–13 months) Relates an object or an action in a book to the real world (10–14 months) Shows a preference for a favorite page of a book by searching for it or holding the book open to that page repeatedly (11–14 months) Names objects pictured, points correctly to a familiar object when asked, "Where's the . . . ?" (11–14 months) Uses "book babble" (jargon that sounds like reading) (13–14 months) Selects books on the basis of content (10–15 months) Turns an inverted book right side up or tilts head (11–15 months) Helps reader turn pages of books (14–15 months) Turns pages in clumps when looking at books (14–15 months)
By 18 months	Knows functions of objects (12–18 months) Recognizes and points to body parts Uses spatial concepts, such as "up," "down" (12–18 months) Can place circle and square in puzzle	Carries books around while walking (12–18 months) Holds book open with help (12–18 months) Gives book to adult to read (12–18 months) Shows familiarity with the text on seeing illustration (says some of words in text) WRITING SKILLS Scribbles spontaneously (13–18 months)
By 21 months or 2 years	Understands and uses: Agents (e.g., mama) Actions (e.g., run) Objects (e.g., cup) Recurrence (e.g., more) Cessation (e.g., stop) Disappearance (e.g., all gone) (18–20 months) Matches familiar objects (e.g., picks out spoons from all silverware) Makes collections of things that are alike in some way (e.g., puts toys with wheels together) Knows location (e.g., "there") (18–20 months) Nests objects (relates sizes) Puts circle, square, triangle shapes in puzzle (18–24 months) Uses one-to-one correspondence with two objects	READING SKILLS Points to a picture and asks, "What's that?" or indicates that a label is requested (13–20 months) Notifies print rather than just pictures; may point to labels under pictures when pictures are named (15–20 months) Shows empathy for characters or situations depicted in books (16–20 months) Makes associations across books WRITING SKILLS Begins to draw vertical and horizontal lines Continues to scribble

Age level	Conceptual knowledge: Math and science	Conceptual knowledge: Emerging literacy
<p>By 24 months or 2 years</p>	<p>Points to and names body parts (13–24 months) Distinguishes living and nonliving things Has knowledge of basic-level categories, such as plants, animals, and people Knows "more" (18–24 months) Compares and matches form, size, color (18–24 months)</p>	<p>READING SKILLS Enjoys a variety of interactive books (12–24 months) Engages in reading behavior by verbalizing while looking at books (12–24 months) Performs an action shown or mentioned in a book (12–24 months) Sits for several minutes looking at a book (12–24 months) Takes books off shelf and replaces them (12–24 months) May accidentally tear pages; decrease in intentional tearing (12–24 months) May use book as transitional object (18–24 months) Recites parts of well-known stories, rhymes, songs (18–24 months) Distinguishes print from nonprint (18–24 months) Identifies objects in a photograph (18–24 months) Relates pictures in stories to own experiences (20–26 months)</p> <p>WRITING SKILLS Hand dominance may emerge (18–24 months) Explores making marks with pencil or crayon (18–24 months) Imitates vertical strokes (18–24 months) Imitates circular scribble (20–24 months) Draws zigzags, lines, and loops during scribbling</p>
<p>By 30 months</p>	<p>Counts first three count words (19–30 months) Counts two objects, knows "one more" (24–30 months) Knows "how many" up to two (24–30 months) Recognizes and points to functions of objects (e.g., rolls, jumps) (24–30 months) Recognizes size differences (e.g., pointing to <i>little</i>, <i>big</i>) (27–30 months) Names at least one color (27–30 months)</p>	<p>READING SKILLS "Reads" to dolls, stuffed animals, or self (17–25 months) Enjoys nursery rhymes, nonsense rhymes, finger-plays, poetry (18–30 months) Talks about characters and events in books in ways that show understanding of the story (20–26 months) Fills in a word in the text when the reader pauses, says the next word before the reader does, or reads along with the reader when a predictable/familiar book is read (15–28 months) Protests when adult misreads a word in a familiar story; typically offers correct word (25–28 months) Recites whole phrases from favorite stories if adult pauses at opportune times (24–30 months) Recognizes some familiar environmental signs or symbols</p> <p>WRITING SKILLS Makes crayon rubbing Imitates horizontal stroke (24–30 months)</p>
<p>36 months or 3 years</p>	<p>Understands most common descriptors (30–36 months) Understands gender (30–36 months) Gives both first and last name (30–36 months) Can do simple form puzzles (24–36 months) Asks "What," "Where," "Why," "When," "Who" (30–36 months) Makes spatial designs with blocks or shapes (18–36 months) Knows directional words (e.g., <i>up</i>, <i>down</i>, <i>out</i>, <i>in</i>, <i>over</i>, <i>under</i>) (24–36 months) Knows gender (30–36 months) Sorts basic shapes (30–36 months) Counts 1–10</p>	<p>READING SKILLS Searches for favorite pictures in books (24–36 months) May recite simple stories from familiar books (24–36 months) Coordinates text read (words) with pictures (24–36 months) Reads some environmental print (30–36 months) Moves finger or hand across a line of print in a favorite book and verbalizes text exactly or accurately paraphrased (32 months) Listens to longer stories (36+ months) Understands what print is (36+ months)</p>

Age level	Conceptual knowledge: Math and science	Conceptual knowledge: Emerging literacy
36 months or 3 years (continued)	<p>Counts 1–4 items with one-to-one correspondence</p> <p>Subitizes, or instantly tells <i>how many</i> with groups of 1–3 items (24–36 months)</p> <p>Visually identifies the <i>same</i> or <i>more</i> by making a visual comparison (may be wrong)</p> <p>Understands concepts of <i>all</i>, <i>none</i> relating to number of objects</p> <p>Notifies simple repeating patterns, such as <i>long-short</i>, <i>long-short</i> in block sets</p> <p>Matches shapes, first with same size and orientation, then with different sizes and orientation</p>	<p>WRITING SKILLS</p> <p>Imitates a cross (24–36 months)</p> <p>Engages in early scribble writing: makes organized marks (pictures/writing) (24–36 months)</p> <p>Can usually indicate which is a picture or writing in own products (24–36 months)</p> <p>Copies a circle (25–36 months)</p> <p>May label and talk about own drawings (30–36 months)</p> <p>Draws recognizable forms (30–36 months)</p>
42 months	<p>Counts to 3 meaningfully (not rote) (36–42 months)</p> <p>Knows several shapes, colors, sizes, textures</p> <p>Knows spatial relationships</p> <p>Knows what objects go together functionally and how they are used</p> <p>Understands functions of body parts</p>	<p>READING SKILLS</p> <p>Understands relationship among related pictures</p> <p>Names action when looking at a picture book</p> <p>Tells story when looking at a familiar picture book</p> <p>Recalls one or two elements from a story just read</p> <p>Matches uppercase letters</p> <p>Matches written numbers 0–9 (may mix up 6 and 9)</p> <p>WRITING SKILLS</p> <p>Holds pencil/crayon using 3-finger grasp (36–39 months)</p> <p>Draws circle independently</p> <p>Copies a cross (36–42 months)</p> <p>Draws person with head and at least one feature</p>
By 48 months or 4 years	<p>Compares textures (42–48 months)</p> <p>Identifies primary colors (36–48 months)</p> <p>Matches wide range of colors (30–48 months)</p> <p>Names examples of objects, animals, and so forth, in a class (e.g., fruit)</p> <p>Asks questions about bodily functions</p> <p>Counts 1–30 with emphasis on the counting pattern (e.g., "Twenty-one," with emphasis on parallel to 1, 2, 3)</p> <p>Counts 1–10 items, knowing the last number stated is the total number of items</p> <p>Subitizes groups of up to five items without having to count each item</p> <p>Recognizes and names variations of the circle, square, triangle, and rectangle</p> <p>Learns a simple route from a map placed in direct relation to the child's space</p> <p>Creates 2-D and 3-D constructions with symmetry</p> <p>Informally compares amount of items with clear discrepancies</p> <p>Copies simple repeating patterns</p>	<p>READING SKILLS</p> <p>Knows that alphabet letters are a category of visual graphics that can be individually named (36–48 months)</p> <p>Identifies about 10 alphabet letters, especially those in own name (36–48 months)</p> <p>Begins to identify rhymes and rhyming sounds in familiar words</p> <p>Begins to attend to the beginning sounds in familiar words</p> <p>Indicates enjoyment when hearing alliteration in stories (36–48 months)</p> <p>Begins to make letter–sound matches</p> <p>Dictates words, phrases, and sentences for others to write</p> <p>Identifies simple, high-frequency words</p> <p>Begins to break words into syllables</p> <p>Recognizes own name in print</p> <p>When read a story, connects details, information, and events to real-life experiences (36–48 months)</p> <p>Questions and comments demonstrate understanding of literal meaning of story (36–48 months)</p> <p>Recognizes print in the local environment (36–48 months)</p> <p>Knows that it is the print that is read in stories (36–48 months)</p> <p>Is interested in sequences of events in stories (36–48 months)</p> <p>Recalls 3–4 elements from a story</p> <p>Displays reading and writing attempts to others</p> <p>Begins to predict what will happen next in an unknown story</p> <p>WRITING SKILLS</p> <p>Copies diagonal lines (36–48 months)</p> <p>Traces a 6-inch line with no more than one deviation</p> <p>Draws person with head and at least four features (42–48 months)</p> <p>Makes visual representations of people, scenes, objects, animals, designs (recognizable but not precise) (42–48 months)</p>