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| ***Important to note:*** | *Children join our setting at various times of the year and at different ages. Children will always be assessed when they start and their learning and development journey will be individual to them. This checkpoint documents enables us to monitor the skills children are developing at a snapshot in time across the 7 areas of learning and development. It is not to be used as a tick list. It is to give practitioners some guidance in knowing when children are on track. Children however all learn at different rates and at different times and not always in a linear way. Knowing children individually will be the best way to track their progress.* |
| **Communication and Language** | **Checkpoint 1** | **Checkpoint 2** | **Checkpoint 3** | **Checkpoint 4** |
| **Listening, Attention and Understanding** | Enjoys singing, music and toys that make soundsAttends to communication addressed to self or using personal pronoun Listen and respond to a simple InstructionUnderstand simple instructions like “give to mummy” or “stop”Understand frequently used words such as ‘all gone’, ‘no’ and ‘bye-bye’. |  Listens to and enjoys rhythmic patterns in rhymes and storiesJoins in nursery rhymes and action SongsCan select a named object from a display of three or four objectsEnjoys laughing and being playful with others.Pays attention to details such as how a worm wriggles or how water feels | Follow a series of two simple but related commands, e.g. ‘Get your teddy and put it in the bag.’Identifies action words by following simple instructions e.g. show me jumpingDevelops pretend play: ‘putting the baby to sleep’ or ‘driving the car to the shops’.Single channelled attention, can shift to a different task if attention is fully obtained – using child’s name to fully focus child. | Understands action wordsUnderstanding of simple concepts, fast / slow good/badUnderstanding the use of objects. – what do we use to cutListens to simple stories and understand what is happening, with the help of the pictures.Identify familiar objects and properties for practitioners when they are described. For example: ‘Hassan’s coat’, ‘blue car’, ‘shiny apple’ |
| **Speaking** |  Developing use of single words during play through adult interactions and starting to put two words togetherUses fifty or more words appropriately and understands many more. |  Developing ability to put 2/3 words togetherBeginning to ask simple questionsStart to say how they are feeling, using words as well as actions (Begin to express themselves)Beginning to talk about people and things that are not present e.g. “mummy work” | Confidently put 2/3 words togetherProvides a verbal commentary during playBegin to talk about familiar book.Uses language to share feelings, experiences and thoughts.Imitates phrases developing new vocabulary | Uses 200 or more recognisable wordsUse a wider range of vocabulary based on their own experiences.Can talk about familiar books.Beginning to use pronouns (me, him, you) |
| **Personal, Social and Emotional Development** | **Checkpoint 1** | **Checkpoint 2** | **Checkpoint 3** | **Checkpoint 4** |
| **Self-Regulation** | Find ways of managing transitions, for example from their parent to their key personBeginning to show meaningful short play sequencesExpresses positive feelings such as joy and affection and negative feelings such as anger, frustration or distress, through actions, behaviours and possibly words | Beginning to show awareness of rules and boundaries. Beginning to learn about the golden rules: e.g. ‘kind hands’, ‘walking feet’ Play with increasing confidence on their own and with other children, because they know their key person is nearby and availableRepeats preferred actions or play sequences  | Grow in independence, rejecting help (“me do it”)Beginning to show ‘effortful control’. For example, waiting for a turn and resisting the strong impulse to grab what they want or push their way to the front | Are talking about their feelings in more elaborated ways: “I’m sad because...” or “I love it when ...”. Show empathy and concern for people who are special to themBeginning to be able to cooperate in favourable situationsSeeks comfort from a familiar adult when needed and can distract themselves with a comfort object when upset |
| **Managing Self** | Increasing desire to be independentKnows their own nameTry a wider range of foods with different tastes and texturesFeeds self with spoon | Beginning to express preferences and decisions. They also try new things and start establishing their autonomyFeel strong enough to express a range of emotionsAsks for food and drink | Experiments with what their body can do by setting themselves physical challengesKnows their own name, their preferences and interests, becoming aware of unique abilitiesShow an increasing desire to be independent, such as wanting to feed themselves and dress or undress. Lifts cup and drinks without spilling | Knows their own name, their preferences and interests, becoming aware of unique abilitiesUsually attempts to verbalise toilet needs in reasonable timeEats with fork and spoonRecognises Danger and can seek support when needed Developing some independence in self-care and shows awareness of routines such as hand washing and teeth brushing |
| **Building Relationships** | Interested in their own and others physical characteristics e.g. pointing to features or body partsWill often watch, follow or imitate othersExplores the environment and resources when key person is close by, returning for reassurance if needed | Begins to feel confident when taken out around the setting, and enjoys exploring new places with their key personPlays with increasing confidence on their own and with (alongside) other children, because they know their key person is nearby and availableMay take turns and parallel play (plays contently near other children) | Develop play with other childrenMore sustained role play e.g. putting doll to bedDeveloping an understanding/interest in differences e.g. in gender, ethnicity and ability | Seeks out others to share experiencesPlay with increased confidence on their own and with other children Shows affection Joins in active make-believe play with other children |
| **Physical Development** | **Checkpoint 1** | **Checkpoint 2** | **Checkpoint 3** | **Checkpoint 4** |
| Gross Motor Skills | Gaining increasing control of their whole body through continual practice of large movements, such as waving, kicking, rolling, crawling and walkingBuild independently with a range of appropriate resourcesWalk, run, jump and climb – and start to use the stairs independently Can walk a considerable distance with purpose, stopping, starting and changing direction | Runs safely on whole footSit on a push-along wheeled toy and move forwards or backwards Clap and stamp to music Fit themselves into spaces, like tunnels, dens and large boxes, and move around in them Jumps with two feet togetherKick a stationary large ball | Throws a ball and enjoys trying to catchGo up steps and stairs, or climb up apparatus, using alternate feetAble to build independently with a range of appropriate resources (Both large or small scale structures with loose parts)Walks up the stairs with alternating feetMoves in response to music or rhythms played on instruments such as drums or shakers | Can pedal a tricycle Jumps up in the air with both feet leaving the ground and can jump forward a small distanceDeveloping their movement, balancing, riding (scooters, trikes and bikes) and ball skillsBeginning to match their developing physical skills to tasks and activities in the setting. For example, they decide whether to crawl, walk or run across a plank, depending on its length and width |
| Fine Motor Skills | Beginning to develop manipulation and control (through playdough, threading, puzzles etc.) When holding crayons, chalks etc.Makes connections between their movement and the marks they makeMakes circular scribble motions with a crayon/pen  | Explore different materials and tools. (Playdough, sand, spade, spoon, hammers etc.) Beginning to show preference for a dominant hand and/or footUnscrew a lid from a jarHands start to operate independently during a task which uses both e.g. holding a block in one hand a steadying the other block with the other hand | Developing manipulation and control (e.g. of one handed tools). Holds mark making tools with thumb and all fingers. Use large and small motor skills to do things independently, for example attempts to do zips, and pour drinks.Makes snips with scissors e.g. in play-dough | Turn pages in a book (sometimes several at one)Holds a pencil near the point a copies a circleTo begin to use one-handed tools and equipment, for example, making snips in paper with scissors or a knife to spread jamCan pull up a zip when it is fastened  |
| **Literacy** | **Checkpoint 1** | **Checkpoint 2** | **Checkpoint 3** | **Checkpoint 4** |
| Comprehension | Enjoys songs and rhymes tuning in and paying attentionPoints to things in a book e.g. when you say ‘where’s the bear?’ | Enjoys sharing books with an adultEnjoys rhythmic and musical activity with percussion, songs, clapping along with the beatEnjoys listening or joining in with words of familiar songs and nursery rhymes | Has favourite books and seeks them out, to share with an adultAnticipate, complete and fill in familiar words of songs, rhymes, stories eg. Going on a bear huntSing songs and say rhymes independently, for example, singing whilst playing. | Have favourite books and seeks them out, to share with an adult, with another child, or to look at aloneDevelop play around favourite stories using propsAsk questions about the book. Makes comments and shares their own ideas. Recites a few nursery rhymes |
| Word Reading | Copy finger movements and other gesturesEnjoys the noises adults make when they read storiesBrings a book to an adult indicating they want to share it | Beginning to have favourite booksPay attention and responds to the pictures or the words in booksNotices pictures and symbols and beginning to recognise what they stand for in their familiar experiences | Repeat words and phrases from familiar storiesJoin in with songs and rhymes, copying sounds, rhythms, tunes and tempo. (Begin to engage in phase 1 phonic activities) Waits for the adult to finish reading before trying to help turn the page | Beginning to join in with conversations about stories and learn new vocabularyNotice some print, such as the first letter of their name, a bus or door number, or a familiar logo. (Recognises important prints to me)Repeat words and phrases from familiar stories |
| Writing | Enjoy making marks freelyEnjoys the sensory experience of mark making | Enjoys making marks freely with increasing confidenceBeginning to understand the cause and effect of their actions in mark making | Enjoys mark making on paper, on screen and on different textures, such as in sand or playdough and through using touch-screen technologyAdd some marks to their drawings, which they give meaning to. For example: “That says mummy.” | To begin to make marks independentlyDistinguishes between different marks they makeMake marks on their picture to stand for their name  |
| **Mathematics** | **Checkpoint 1** | **Checkpoint 2** | **Checkpoint 3** | **Checkpoint 4** |
| Number | Counting like behaviour such as making sounds, pointing or saying some number names in sequenceSay some number names randomlyMatch objects of the same colour e.g. red with redResponds to words like lots and more | Compare saying lots, more, the sameBeginning to recite some number names in sequenceTake part in finger rhymes with numbers.Uses number words like one, two and sometimes responds accurately when asked to give one or two things | Count in everyday contexts, sometimes skipping numbers - ‘1-2-3-5.’Recites numbers in sequence 1-5 In everyday situations, takes or gives two or three objects from a group | Say one number for each item in order: 1,2,3 (maybe more)-countingRecites numbers past five sometimes in sequenceSelects a small number of objects from a group when askedBeginning to notice numerals (number symbols)Beginning to count on their fingers |
| Numerical Patterns | Beginning to arrange items in their own patterns e.g. lining up toys | React to changes of amount in a group of up to three items | Notices when something is missing or has been taken away  | Beginning to compare and recognise changes in number of things, using words more, lots or same |
| Shape, Space and Measure | Enjoys filling and emptying containersPushes objects through different shaped holes, and attempts to fit shapes into spaces on inset boards or puzzlesEnjoys using blocks to create simple structures and arrangementsBecoming familiar with patterns in daily routines  | Build with a range of resourcesCombine objects like stacking blocks and cups, put objects inside others and take them out again.Explores capacity by filling and emptying containers e.g. fitting toys in a pramShows interest in size and weight | Beginning to categorise objects according to properties such as shape or size Compare saying bigger, smaller, high, low, tall, heavyDeveloping understanding of positional languageNotice patterns and arrange things in pattern | Notices simple patterns and arrange things in patternsExploring shapes in playMake simple comparisons between objects relating to size, length, weight and capacityRemembers their way around familiar environmentsJoins in an anticipates repeated sound and action patterns |
| **Understanding of the World** | **Checkpoint 1** | **Checkpoint 2** | **Checkpoint 3** | **Checkpoint 4** |
| **Past and Present** | Beginning to realise things exist even when they are out of sight | Repeat actions that have an effect (exploring how things work)Remembers where objects belong | Talk about their own experiences | Remembers a special event and shows interest in the lives of people who are special to them |
| **People, Culture and Communities** | Shows interests in photographs of themselves and other familiar people and objectsIs curious about people and shows interest in stories about people that are familiar to them | Learns they have similarities and differences which connect them to and distinguish them from othersDemonstrates curiosity about people and shows interest in stories about people, animals or objects.In pretend play imitates actions from own experiences | Can talk about their immediate family, relation and petsEnjoys playing with small world reconstructions building on their own experiences e.g. visiting farms, train track, beach, park etc. | Make connections between the features of their family and other familiesBeginning to notice differences between peopleBeginning to have their own friends |
| **The Natural World** | Beginning to explore natural materials, indoors and outside. Reacts to a picture of a family pet | Enjoys stories about nature (birds, bees, snails, cats, dogs etc.) Explore and respond to different natural phenomena e.g. standing in the rain with wellies and umbrellas, crunching in frost, searching for bug etc. | Explore collections of materials with similar and/or different properties.Makes comments about some of the things they’ve observed such as plants, animals, natural and found objects | Beginning to use all their senses in hands-on exploration of natural materials (curious to explore and make own choices)Notices detailed features of objects in their environment Explore and respond to different natural phenomena in their setting and on trips |
| **Expressive Arts and Design** | **Checkpoint 1** | **Checkpoint 2** | **Checkpoint 3** | **Checkpoint 4** |
| **Creating with Materials** | Explore paint, using fingers and other parts of their bodies as well as brushes and other tools | Notices and becomes interested in the transformative effect of their actions on materials and resources | Manipulate and play with different materials using various tools like scissors, cutters, hammers Build simple models or structures | Explore different materials, using all their senses to investigate themMake simple models using 2D and 3D structures which express their ideas using  |
| **Being Imaginative and Expressive** | Mirrors and improvises actions they have observed e.g. clapping/ waving Moves while singing, vocalising, whilst listening to sounds and music, while playing with sound makers and instrumentsExpresses self through physical actions and sounds | Engages in multi-sensory exploration and expressionSings/vocalises while listening to music or playing with instruments/sound makersCreates sound effects and movements e.g. creates the sound of a car/animalPretends that one objects represents another especially when objects have characteristics in common | Makes marks intentionally (in flour, sand, pens, crayons, paint etc.) Joins in singing songs Start to develop pretend play | Enjoys and responds to playing with colour in a variety of waysBegins to make believe by pretending, using sounds, movements, words, objects etc.Beginning to describe sounds imaginatively e.g. scary music |
| **References** | Development Matters (2021) Department for EducationBirth to 5 Matters (2021) Early Years CoalitionMary Sheridan and Universally Speaking, Language Champions activities (IPROF Science) |