

Module PW-MI

Developing parental capacity to identify and understand children's physical and emotional needs

Content

- Parents' concerns and knowledge about children's development in general
- Factors that influence children's development, and how the children might have been affected
- Information about child development
- Guidelines to support children's development
- What sort of parenting best helps children's development
- Approaches to facilitate children's development.

Materials

- **h** Handout
- Practitioner notes
- Record
- Worksheet
- Developmental progression: Indications of expected changes and growth [PW-I] h
- What seems to influence children's development [PW-2]
- Positive developments and challenges [PW-3]
- Children's developmental needs and how to promote them [PW-4]



Main steps

Inform parents about the agenda and check on issues from previous meetings.

Concerns about the child's development

Discuss these concerns with the parents.

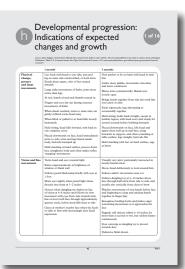


- Have you or any member of your family had concerns about your child's development at any time?
- What about your health visitor or general practitioner or as a result of the assessments that took place earlier?
- Were children's social care or the court concerned about your child's development?
- What were their concerns, and what do you feel about them? What sorts of responses have you received from other people, including family and professionals?



Using the development charts

Use 'Developmental progression: Indications of expected changes and growth' [PW-1] to have a discussion with the parents about the way development unfolds, about similarities and differences with the way that their child has developed, and whether this helps them understand whether they have had difficulties understanding or managing their child's development.



- The charts describe children's development in different areas. Point out that children do different things at different ages.
- Show the way in which different skills unfold and occur in a sequential way.
- Discuss whether the patterns in the chart are similar to what their child achieved at a similar age and stage: in what ways they were advanced, in what ways they were less advanced.
- Point out the rows for physical changes; vision and fine movements; hearing and speech; social behaviour, relationships and play; and understanding and intellectual capacity; and the different stages for each of these areas.
- Stress that one stage helps determine what happens at the next, that there is a range of so-called normal development – i.e. what most children do. Discuss what concerns the parents had about their children at the different stages, what the easy or hard stages were, what stages caused most worry and whether they got any help with particular problems.
- Discuss with the parents whether looking at these developmental charts helps.

Discussion of factors that have influenced children's development in general and how these factors might have affected their child

The suggested scripts describe a number of different areas which can have an impact on children's development. 'What seems to influence children's development' [PW-2] summarises the areas that might affect their child.

It is helpful to use a Socratic questioning approach to check on what influences each of these areas may have had on their child's development – for example, Who had the most influence helping your child to learn and be mobile? What did you do which was helpful? What was your role?

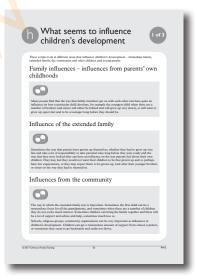


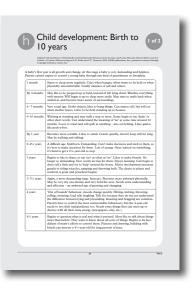
'What seems to influence children's development' lists the sorts of influences which are important in all children's lives and which can have a positive or negative effect. Perhaps we could discuss each of them and you could say how you think your child's development has been affected, either helpfully or not.

Perhaps we could discuss which have been the important influences on your child's development, looking at all these different areas.

Developmental information

What are the particular challenges of each stage of development? See 'Child development: Birth to 10 years' [PW-3].







In 'Child development: Birth to 10 years' are some statements about the particular challenges of children at each age. Perhaps we can discuss how they apply to you.

Children can be very different at each of these stages, and can present particular difficulties. On the handout are the needs of children of different ages and it would be helpful to discuss which were relevant to your children's growing up.

It is helpful to discuss how you found these particular phases. If one of your children was particularly challenging or made very slow progress over these phases and people were concerned about your child showing some developmental delay, what happened about this, how did you feel and how do you feel about it today?

What is the best we can do to help children's development?

See 'Children's developmental needs and how to promote them' [PW-4].



Children's developmental needs and how to promote them



What do you think are the most important attributes to support a child's development? In the handout we have listed some of the qualities that are generally agreed to help children's development. We are going to discuss these to see whether that was easy for you or whether it was challenging.



Following discussion, what do you think you have been most successful at, what has been most difficult?

What do you think as partners you feel about each other's contribution to these qualities?



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