

When you see the world through a baby's eyes, you see that there's much more to growing up than just growing. As you develop, your whole world changes. Pampers has developed a whole line of nappies and other products that meet your child's changing needs at every stage of his or her development.

We hope the above will make it easier for you to keep up with your child!





Your Child's Guide to Health



Pampers. nappy range guide:

Diapers adapted to the needs of the Baby and to each of the Baby's Stages of Development

0-5 months



For newborns on milk diet, absorbs soft and runny poo too







4 months and +



Stretchy sides for active babies









10 months and +





Pull up nappy with all the dryness of Pampers









For all babies

12 hours dryness for a peaceful sleep







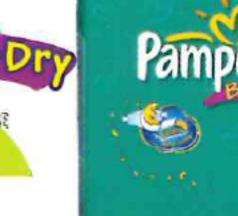




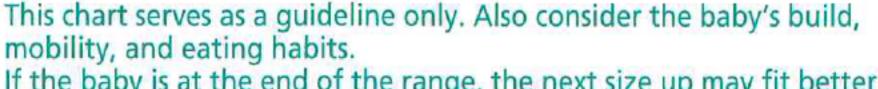


















Congratulations

Dear Parents,

Congratulations on the birth of your new baby. Your child's guide to health is presented to you by the Health Division and is supported by Pampers. This booklet has information on what preventative care your child needs and on good health habits. It will also help keep track of your child's health and care through the years. This guide can help give your child a healthy start on life.

The Contributors:

Primary Health Department Department of Paediatrics Health Promotion Department

Sponsored by:



YOUR CHILD'S GUIDE TO HEALTH

Personal details

Child's Name:	
Date of Birth:	
Sex:	
Parent / Guardian Names (s):	
Address:	
Home Telephone:	
Work Telephone:	
Child's Doctor and Phone Numb	er(s):





TABLE OF CONTENTS

G	BIRTH RECORD	7
to	CHECK UP VISITS	8
	IMMUNISATION9	
	Immunisation record	
	TESTS AND EXAMINATIONS	-30
	Growth record	.12
	Growth charts	.14
	Child health checks	.18
	School health services	.28
	Early support for children with special needs	.29
	Health care visits and illness record	.30
	HEALTH GUIDANCE 31.	-55
	When to call a doctor & useful tips	
	What to keep at home	
	Guidelines on your child's development	
	Pampers Tips - The Importance of Touch	
	Your baby's hearing	
	Pampers Tips - The Developing Sense of Hearing	
	Your baby's vision	
	Pampers Tips - The Developing Sense of Vision	
	Healthy eating right from the start	.45
	Pampers Tips - The Developing Sense of Taste and Smell	.48
	Dental/oral health	
	Safety guidelines	
	Physical activity	
	Enjoying the sun safely	
	Smoke free is best	.56
	As your child grows older	.58
	Avoiding child abuse	
	For more information	
	USEFUL ADDRESSES AND PHONE NUMBERS.	62



HOW TO USE THE CHILD HEALTH GUIDE

Each section of the Child Health Guide which is coded (or) covers an important health care topic.

- Read each section carefully and ask your child's doctor or other health care provider to answer any questions you may have.
- Use the records throughout the Child Health Guide to keep track of the immunisations, tests, examinations and other types of visits your child gets. Use these records to remind you when your child needs to be seen next.
- Take the Child Health Guide every time you take your child:
 - To a doctor or other care worker such as a nurse
 - For vaccination
 - To the dentist



our Child's Guide to health

PREPARING FOR A NEW BABY

The birth of a new child within a family brings about changes and new roles for all the members, but even more so for the mother. The added pressure, coupled with the ups and downs of life, may result in emotional difficulties such as stress, uncertainty or a sense of not coping. These problems may make you feel depressed, withdrawn or mentally confused.

So what can you do to help yourself?

STOP AND THINK - CLEARLY AND POSITIVELY!

It can help to take the time to work out your goals, values and priorities. Be realistic about your own limitations, manage your time better, and use positive self talk to boost your self-confidence.

GATHER SUPPORT

You need others and others need you. You would be amazed how willing people close to you would be to help with the new baby around!

BECOME HEALTHIER!

People who become fit are usually surprised at how good it makes them feel mentally as well as physically, and in particular how it helps them cope with stress. You can become healthier by exercising regularly, eating healthily, getting enough sleep and avoiding tobacco and alcohol.

In this booklet a section entitled **Health Guidance** helps give your child a healthy start to life whereas sections such as **Child Health Checks** and **Health Care Visits** and **Illness Records** keep track of your child's health care through the years.







Name of hospital:	
Type of delivery:	
normal	
breech	
forceps	
caesarean	
vacuum extraction	
Gestation:	weeks
Birth weight:	kg
Abnormalities noted at birth:	
Neonatal:	
Problems:	
Feeding at discharge:	
breast	
bottle	
both	
Newborn screening blood tests:	
Taken	
Recall	







CHECK-UP VISITS

The Health Division recommends check-up visits at the following ages: at birth, 6-8 weeks, 7-9 months, 18 months, 2 to 3 years, 4 to 5 years, 8 years, 10-12 years and 16-18 years. These visits monitor how your child is growing and developing, and are designed to look for certain problems which can be treated. At these routine check-ups, your child's growth is recorded. In addition, hearing, vision and development will be checked.

Growth Record: Your child's height and weight are checked while your child's head size is measured during the first 2 years of life. These measurements will show if your child is growing properly and are recorded on growth charts.

Hearing: Normal hearing is important for your child's speech and language development. There are special tests which can monitor your child's hearing, but you can check this yourself by answering questions for parents in each age review. (see Child Health Check - Your baby's hearing, page 36-37)

Vision: Different tests are used to check for eye problems, including squint and poor vision. The doctor or nurse will examine your child's eyes. You can help by answering the questions for parents in each age review. (see Child Health Check - Your baby's vision, page 38-39)

Congenital heart disease: Tests are done to check for any heart problem.

Testes: A simple test is performed to check whether your son's testes have descended well into the scrotum.

Development: Routine check ups monitor how your child's language, movement and social skills are developing. The aim is to identify problems early on so that they can be treated as soon as possible. You can help by answer-

ing questions for parents in each age review. (see Child Health Check - Guidelines on your child's development, page 34-35)

Congenital dislocation of the hip: A simple test is performed at birth to check whether your child's hips are fully developed.

NOTE: Screening tests can never be 100% accurate. Sometimes a screening test may raise a false alarm or a problem may occur after your child has had a screening test.





IMMUNISATION IS PROTECTION

Immunisations protect your child from many serious infections. Below is a list of immunisations and the ages when your child should receive them. Immunisations should be given at the recommended ages.

- Children can be immunised whilst taking most medicines, including antibiotics, and during a cold unless there is also a high fever.
- If your child misses an immunisation, arrange for it to be given as soon as possible.
- You can immunise your child at the Health Centres or at your doctor.

ROUTINE IMMUNISATION IN PRE-SCHOOL CHILDREN

- Diphtheria, Tetanus, Whooping cough, Polio and Haemophilus Influenzae type B (HIB) are recommended at 2, 3 and 4 months.
- Measles, mumps, rubella (MMR) and 'Hepatitis B' (HBV) vaccine is to be given at 15 months.
- A Pre-school booster of Diphtheria, Tetanus and Polio is to be given after the third birthday.

ROUTINE IMMUNISATION DURING SCHOOL AGE

It is important that your child / teenager remains protected against infectious diseases some of which may be fatal. Further immunisations are given during the school years. These are given by the school health team or your doctor.

MMR booster dose.

 BCG vaccine against tuberculosis (preceded by a test) continues to be given in Form II / Form III at 12 13 years.

 A booster immunisation against tetanus, diphtheria and polio is given at around 14-16 years of age.

N.B: The vaccination schedule may change from time to time.

MMUNISATION REACTIONS

Most children have no reactions at all from immunisations. However, some have minor reactions. Contact your doctor if:

- 1. crying goes on for more than 4 hours,
- 2. fever is more than 39.5°C (104°F)
- 3. if swelling at injection site is larger than 2/3 of the limb.





Immunisation Record - Use this chart to keep track of your child's immunisations. Significant reaction: ; should be recorded and reported to your doctor immediately.

YPE OF IMMUNISATION				DATE & INITI	DATE & INITIAL/SIGNATURE OF PROVIDER				
OLIO									
Recommended Ages:	From 6 weeks	3 months	4months	18 months				15-19 years	
Dates received:									
Signature:									
Batch No:									
PHTHERIA									
Recommended Ages:	From 6 weeks	3 months	4months	18 months				15-19 years	
Dates received:									
Signature:									
Batch No:								7	
TANUS									
Recommended Ages:	From 6 weeks	3 months	4months	18 months	205			15-19 years	
Dates received:				. G province					
Signature:									
Batch No:									
RTUSSIS									
Recommended Ages:	From 6 weeks	3 months	4months	18 months					
Dates received:				10 1/(0/10)					
Signature:									
Batch No:									
EMOPHILUS TYPE B (HIB)				Design of the latest section in the latest s				The state of the state of	
Recommended Ages:	From 6 weeks	3 months	4months	18 months					
Dates received:				10 374					
Signature:									
Batch No:	The world								
ASLES/MUMPS/RUBELLA	/(MMR)		TENEDRICE TO DESCRIPTION						
Recommended Ages:				15 months	from 3 years				
Dates received:				13 months					
Signature:									
Batch No:									
PATITIS B (HBV)			CONTROL DE LA CO	CONTRACTOR DESCRIPTION OF THE PARTY OF THE P	THE RESERVE OF THE PERSON NAMED IN	THE PERSON NAMED IN COLUMN		on to a company	
Recommended Ages:						12 months	13 months	18 months	
Dates received:						1st dose:	2nd dose:	3rd dose:	
Signature:						1st dose.	Zna dose.	Jia dosc.	
Batch No:									
PV GIRLS				The same of the sa					
Recommended Ages:							12 12		
Dates received:							12-13 years		
Signature:									
Batch No:									
HER									
Type:									
Dates received:									
Signature:									
Batch No:									





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Tour	Cillid 2	Guide	10	Healli



Growth Record

Gestational age:	(weeks).	Allow	weeks for prematurity.
------------------	----------	-------	------------------------

Date	Age	Weight (kg)	Height (cm)	Head circumference (cm)

	THE RESERVE OF THE PERSON NAMED IN			
Your	Child's	Guide	to	Healt

Growth Record

Gestational age:	(weeks).	Allow	weeks for prematurity.
------------------	----------	-------	------------------------

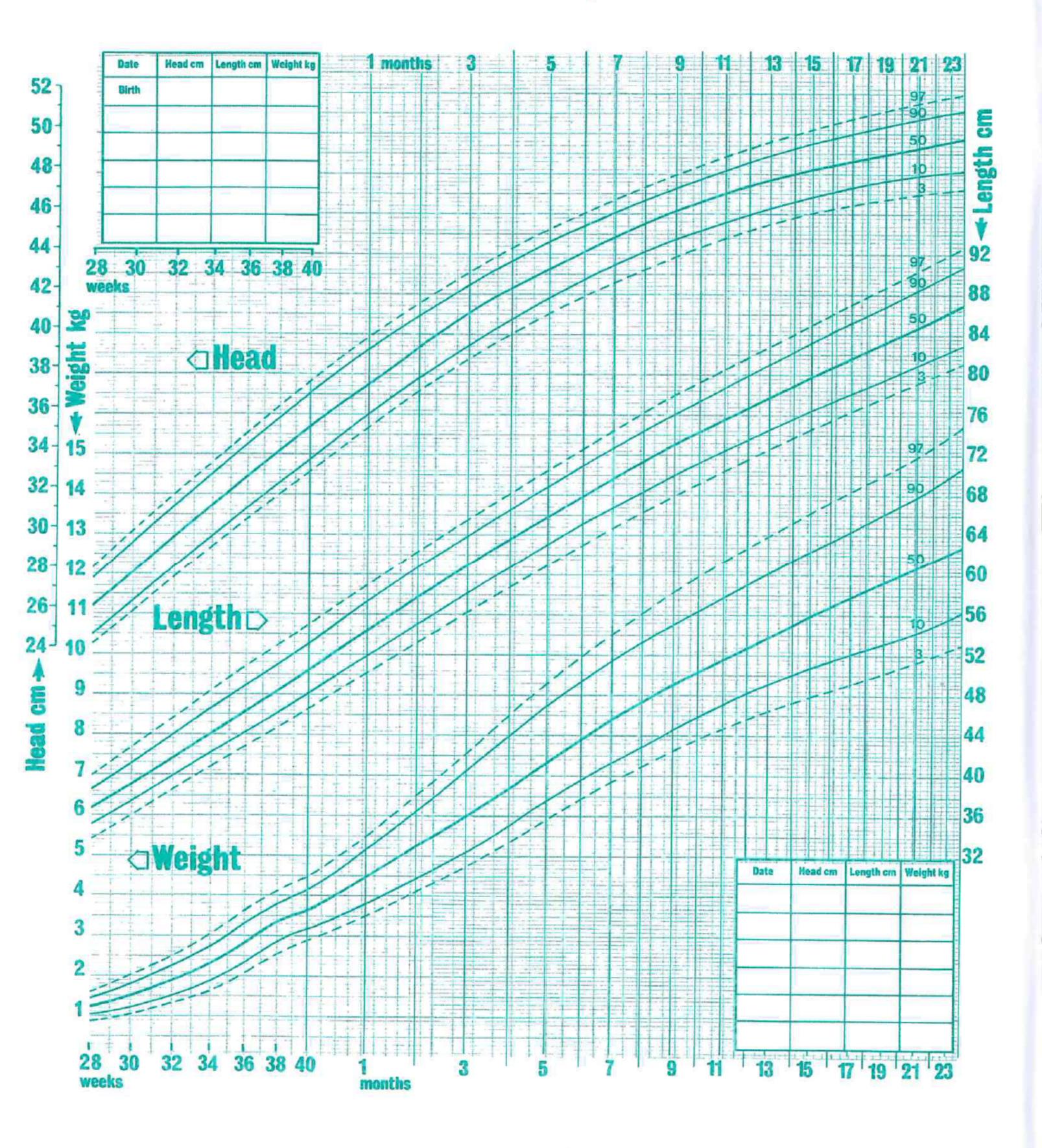
Date	Age	Weight (kg)	Height (cm)	Head circumference (cm)
ű.				
		,		





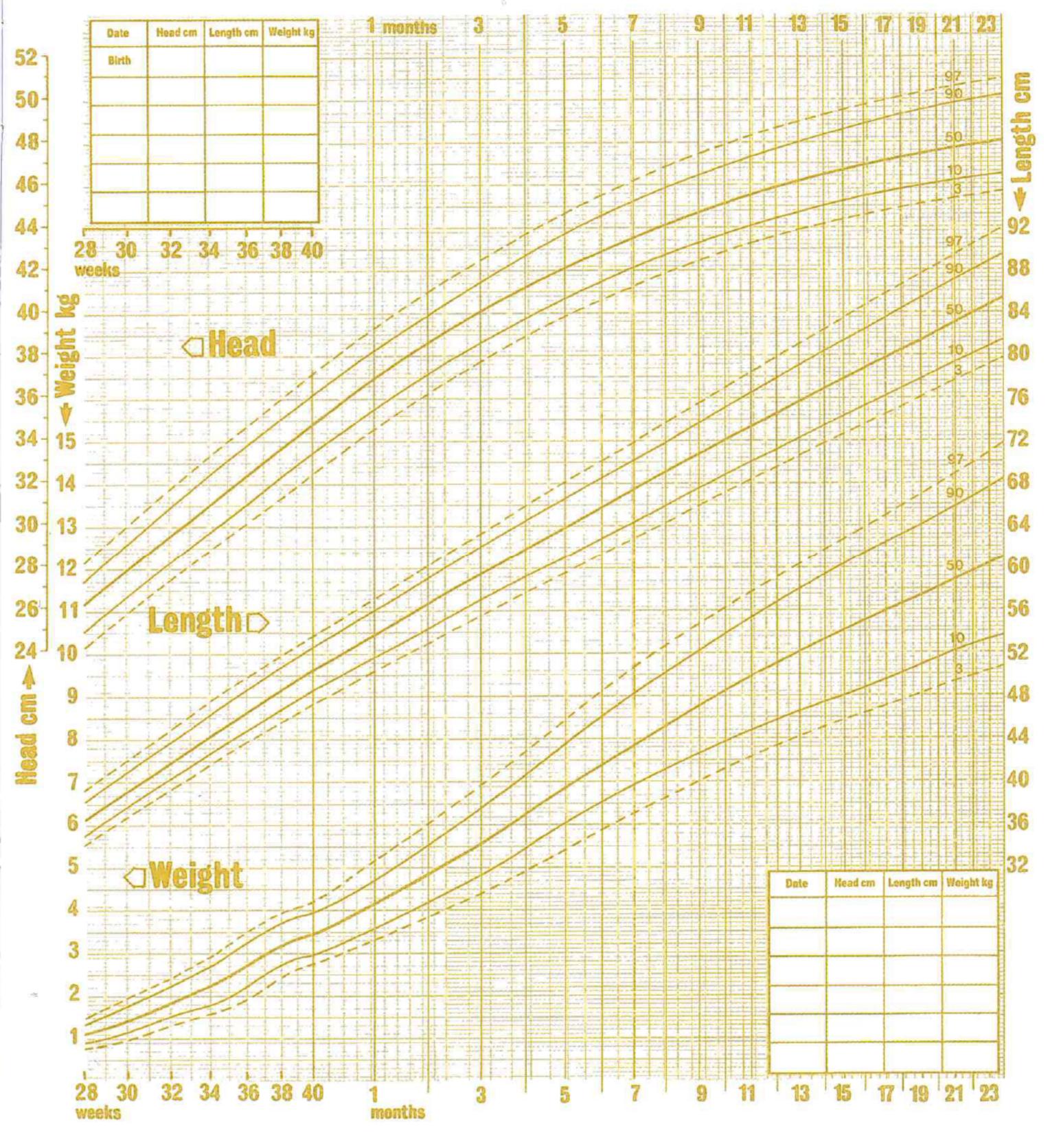
Growth Chart - BOYS

Preterm - 2 years



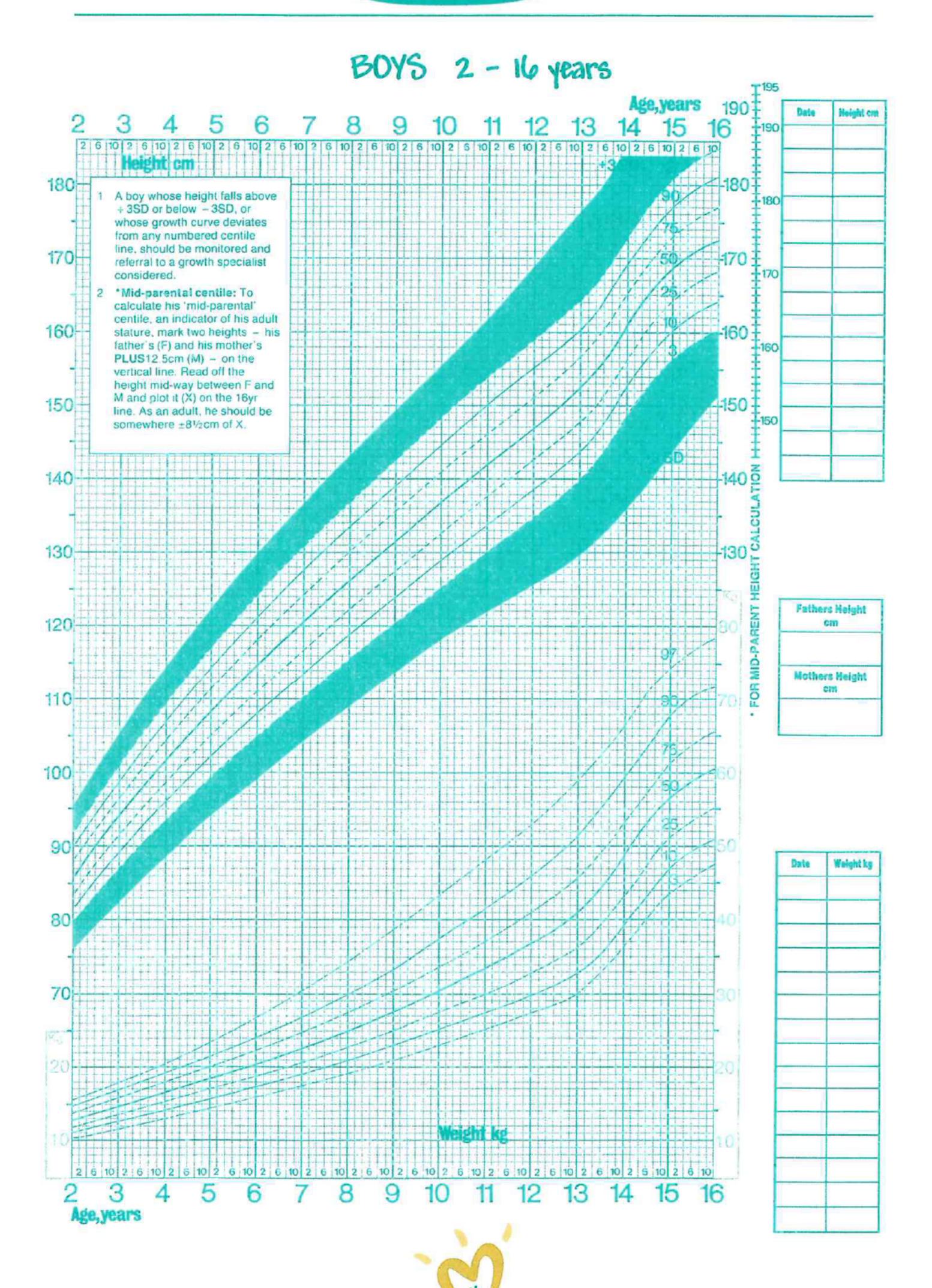
Growth Chart - GIRLS

Preterm - 2 years

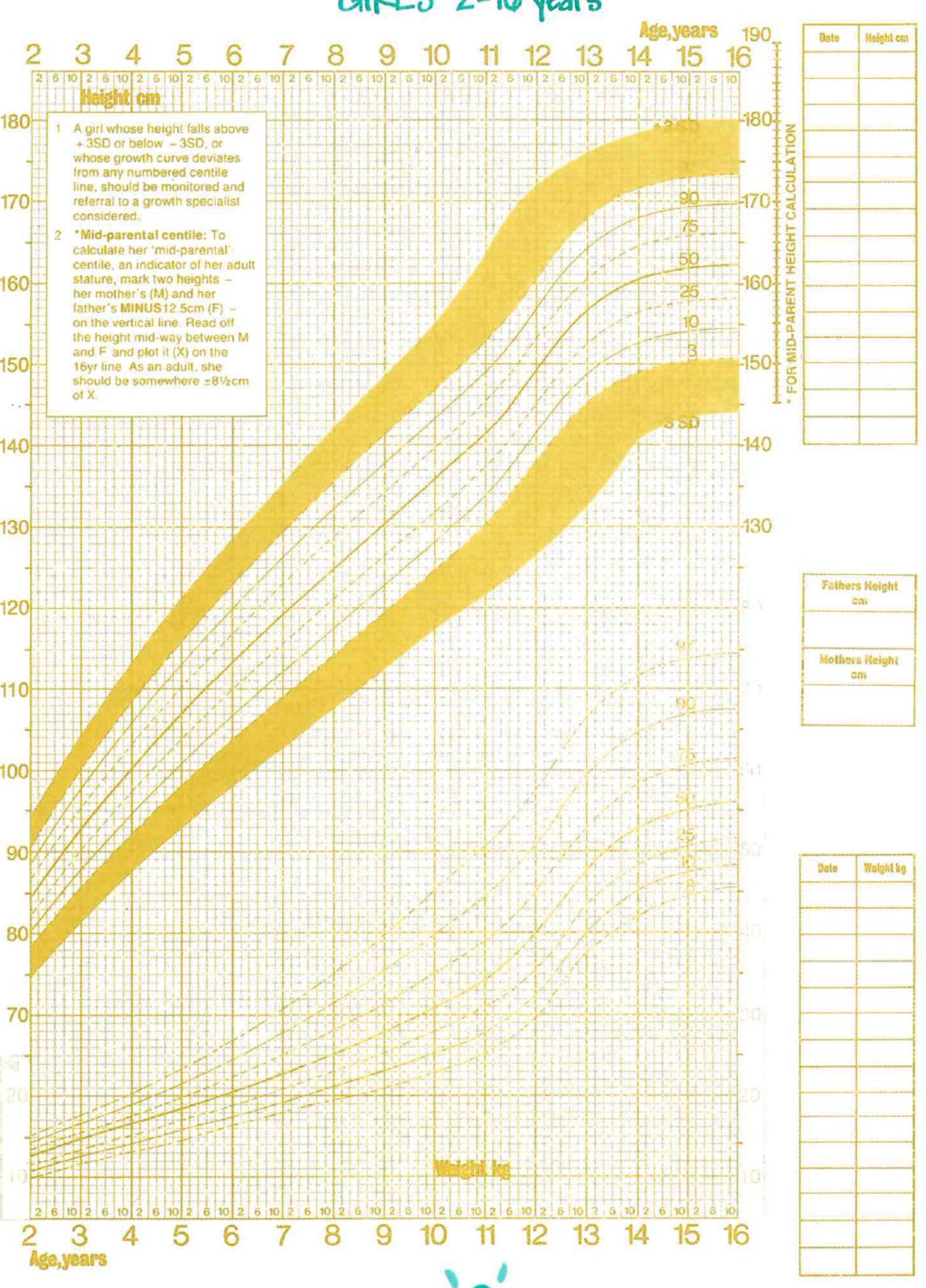














Before your baby's 6-8 weeks health check

By answering the following guiding questions you may be able to discuss any concerns at your child's first visit.

	Tick Yes or	No or	'Not sure'
Do you feel well yourself?	Yes	No	Not sure
Do you have any worries about your baby?	Yes	No	☐ Not sure
Does your baby startle to loud noises such as a loud clap?	Yes	No	Not sure
Does your baby watch your face and follow with his/her eyes?	Yes	No	Not sure
Does your baby turn towards light?	Yes	No	☐ Not sure
Does your baby smile at you?	Yes	No	Not sure
How are you feeding your baby?	Breast	Bottle	Mixed
Parent notes			
	De la constant de la	HEAL	TH TOP
	ahfla	eap bot drift	the away from the temperature
	Of {	he meter b	he temperature
	YOUR	last an	
	Kell	la Hot water	equed-flax
		your baby	badk



Child Health Check at 6-8 weeks

		Date	
Health assessment	Normal	Review	Refer
Growth			
Eyes (including fixation, following and appearance)			¥
Cardiovascular			
Hip test for dislocation			
Testes fully descended R/L			
Other			
HEALTH RISK FACTORS Are there any vision risk factors (see Your baby's vision, page 38) Are there any hearing risk factors (see Your baby's hearing, page 36) Comments	actors?	YES	No







Before your child's 7 - 9 month check up

By answering the following guiding questions you may be able to discuss any concerns which you may have at your child's visit.

	Tick Yes or	'No' or 'Not	sure
Are you concerned about your baby's health?	Yes	No	Not sure
MOVEMENT/ACTIVITIES			
Is your baby sitting alone?	Yes	No	Not sure
Does your baby roll over?	Yes	No	Not sure
Does your baby reach for an object?	Yes	No	☐ Not sure
Is your baby's head steady when sitting?	Yes	No	Not sure
HEARING			
Does your baby turn to sounds or voices?	Yes	No	☐ Not sure
Does your baby hear you and listen to your voice?	Yes	No	Not sure
Does your baby babble (Ba-ba, da-da)?	Yes	No	Not sure
VISION			
Have you noticed a squint?	Yes	No	Not sure
Does your baby look at you and follow you with his/her eyes?	Yes	No	Not sure
Does your baby look at his/her hands or objects?	Yes	No	Not sure
Parent notes			
		•	





Child Health Check at 7 - 9 months

Date/			
Health assessment	Normal	Review	Refer
Growth			
Eyes (including fixation, following and appearance)			
Cardiovascular			
Hips (posture & symmetry)			
Testes fully descended R / L (in boys)			
Other			
HEALTH RISK FACTORS		YES	No
Are there any vision risk factories (see Your baby's vision, page 38)	tors?		
Are there any hearing risk f (see Your baby's hearing, page 36)	actors?		
Comments			



Child Health Check 18 - 24 months

By answering the following guiding questions you may be able to discuss any concerns which you may have at your child's visit.

	Tick 'Yes' or	No or Not	sure
Do you have any worries about your child's health?	Yes	No	Not sure
Do you have any worries about your child's behaviour?	Yes	No	Not sure
Do you have any worries about your child's development?	Yes	No	Not sure
HEARING AND LANGUAGE			
Do you think that your child's hearing is normal?	Yes	No	Not sure
Is your child saying single words other than 'mama' or dada'?	Yes	No	Not sure
Can your child understand simple instructions, like "Put the ball on the table, 'Give the ball to me"?	Yes	No	Not sure
VISION			
Are you concerned about your child's eyesight? Have you noticed squint?	Yes Yes	□ No □ No	☐ Not sure ☐ Not sure
Does your child have difficulty seeing small objects?	Yes	No	Not sure
MOVEMENT/ACTIVITIES			
Can your child walk and bend without falling over?	Yes	No	Not sure
Can your child pick up small objects easily? Does your child use a spoon to eat?	Yes Yes	□ No □ No	Not sure Not sure
Parent notes			



Child Health Check at 18-24 months

Vormal	Review	Refer
	YES	No
	vormal ?? ors?	Y∈s. □







Child Health Check at 2 to 3 years

By answering the following guiding questions you may be able to discuss any concerns which you may have at your child's visit.

	Ti	ck Yes' or '	No or Not sure
Are you concerned about your child's health?	Yes	No	Not sure
Are you concerned about your child's behaviour?	Yes	No	Not sure
Are you concerned about your child's development?	Yes	No	Not sure
Are your child's immunisations up to date?	Yes	No	Not sure
HEARING AND LANGUAGE			
Are you worried about your child's hearing?	Yes	No	Not sure
Does your child often ask you to repeat things?	Yes	No	Not sure
Does your child have difficulty			
following instructions?	Yes	No	Not sure
Does your child speak clearly?	Yes	No	Not sure
Does your child use groups of words when speaking?	Yes	No	Not sure
VISION			
Are you worried about your child's eyesight?	Yes	No	Not sure
Does your child have a squint?	Yes	No	Not sure
Does your child have difficulty seeing small objects?	Yes	No	Not sure
MOVEMENT / ACTIVITY			
Does your child help to dress and undress?	Yes	No	Not sure
Can your child pick up small objects neatly?	Yes	No	Not sure
Does your child scribble and draw with crayons or pencils?	Yes	No	Not sure
Can your child walk down steps easily?	Yes	No	Not sure
Is your child toilet trained?	Yes	No	Not sure
Parent notes			



Your Child's Guide to Health

Child Health Check at 2 to 3 years

Health assessment	Normal	Review	Refer
Growth			
Eyes (including fixation, following and appearance)			
Cardiovascular			
Gait			
Testes fully descended R/L (in boys)			
Other			
HEALTH RISK FACTORS Are there any vision risk factors (see Your baby's vision, page 38) Are there any hearing risk (see Your baby's hearing, page 36)	factors?	YES	No
Comments			





Before your child's 4 to 5 years health check

By answering the following guiding questions you may be able to discuss any concerns which you may have at your child's visit.

	Tick Yes'	or 'No' or 'Not sur
Yes	No	Not sure
Yes	No	Not sure
Yes	No	Not sure
Yes	No	☐ Not sure
Yes	No	☐ Not sure
Yes	No	Not sure
Yes	No	Not sure
Yes	No	☐ Not sure
Yes	No	Not sure
Yes	No	Not sure
Yes	No	Not sure
Yes	No	Not sure
Yes	No	Not sure
Yes	No	Not sure
Yes	No	Not sure
Yes		
- P		
	Yes Yes	Yes





Child Health Check at 4 to 5 years

		Date	_//
Health assessment	Normal	Review	Refer
Growth			
Weight cm			
Height cm			<u> </u>
Cardiovascular			
Gait			
Visual acuity R/L			
Audiometry R/L			
Other			
HEALTH RISK FACTORS		YES	No
Are there any vision risk factories (see Your baby's vision, page 38)	tors?		
Are there any hearing risk f	actors?		
(see Your baby's hearing, page 36)			
Are there any health proble your child's learning ability	ems that may aff	ect	
Comments			



School Health Services

The school health service is made up of health professionals who monitor the health of your child within the school and who are available for advice, information and education on health. These include school nurses and doctors who visit the school regularly, as well as dental health professionals, physiotherapists, speech therapists and psychologists who are available by appointment.

Before your child begins school, it is recommended that he/she is checked by the school health team or your family doctor. The school will ask for a medical certificate and a record of immunisation of your child before entry. A health assessment is carried out which includes:

- Testing child's development
- Growth assessment
- Testing vision, hearing and language
- Immunisation information.

OTHER HEALTH SERVICES INCLUDE:

- screening for scoliosis at 10 11 years
- a vision screening test carried out at age 7-8 years and at age 10-12 years
- school age immunisations carried out at school
- availability of other health professionals (by appointment).

Children cannot fudge the speed of cars very well. It is dangerous for them to cross main coads alone until the age of 12.

If you think that your child has a problem which may be affecting his/ her learning ability, talk to the school nurse. The nurse can guide you as to what services are offered by the school and other health professionals related to the school.

Early Support for Children with Special Needs

If you are in doubt about your child's development, ask your doctor for advice. If necessary your doctor may refer your child to someone else for assessment, advice and specialised help. It is important that you recognise your child's needs as early as possible so that any necessary help is given to your child at an early stage to obtain maximum benefit.

The following are the specialised people who can help your child:

Paediatrician - doctor specialised in child health care.

Physiotherapist - specialised in helping children with movement problems.

Speech Pathologist/

Therapist - specialised in helping individuals with

speech, feeding difficulties and commu-

nication problems.

Occupational Therapist - specialised in helping individuals improve their daily living and hand skills.

sychologist - specialised in assessing your child's level

of understanding and can give advice about behavioural problems.

Ware sure that four medition in the part of that the wedgin in the part of the wedgin in the wedgin in the part of the wedgin in the part of the wedgin in the wedgin in the part of the wedgin in the wedgin in the part of the wedgin in the

There are other workers and voluntary organisations who can offer further help, support and services for children with special needs. If you need information about these support services, please contact the Health Promotion Department.





Health Care Visit and Illness Record

Use this chart to keep track of your child's visits to doctors, your child's illnesses and injuries.

This is useful even when your child becomes an adult.

Date	Age	Illness / Reason for visit	Treatment / Medication



HEALTH GUIDANCE

Most children are healthy and usually have only minor ailments. If you have any concerns about your child consult your doctor.

When to call a doctor - some warning signs:

If it is difficult to wake your child

If your child has breathing difficulties

If your child has a high fever

If you suspect accidental poisoning

If your child has uncontrolled vomiting and diarrhoea

If your child has convulsions (fits).





Some useful tips

Coughs and colds

Babies often get snuffles. You can use saline nose drops to clear your baby's nose.

Nappy rash

Babies have very sensitive skin and can suffer from nappy rash due to different factors at different times.

Self-help routine care for nappy rash:

- The treatment for nappy rash is to eliminate the source of irritation, and then to keep the nappy area as clean and dry as possible. Whenever possible, leave your baby's nappy off to allow air to reach the skin to help the natural healing process.
- Wash your hands before and after every change to reduce the risk of infection.
- Apply a protective cream at each nappy change.
- If there is no improvement, or if the rash becomes infected, seek medical advice.

Fever

It is very important that you know how to check your baby's or child's temperature. You can use a mercury or digital thermometer. Some thermometers come in the shape of a dummy and can be used in your child's mouth, while others are placed in the ear. Normal body temperature varies around a range of 36°C and 37.5°C (97°F and 99.5°F). When measured orally, average normal temperature is generally considered to be 37°C (98.6°F) and about 0.5°C (1°F) higher when measured rectally. When measured under the arms, temperature would normally be 0.5°C (1°F) below. A hot baby or child needs plenty of water to drink and may not want food. Keep your child lightly dressed, you can sponge your baby with lukewarm water and give him/her paracetamol syrup /suppositories.



Many babies have a crying time every day. This is often due to colic and is often worse in the evening when you are tired and want to relax. Crying is how your baby attracts attention. Unfortunately there is no magical cure for colic. Some warm water, colic drops or carob powder added to milk may help. Cuddling and comforting your baby does not spoil your small baby. If your baby keeps on crying, it may be due to an infection or some other problem. If in doubt check your child's temperature. In case of difficulty seek advice from your doctor.

Diarrhoea

Tummy upsets may not be serious but frequent vomiting or frequent diarrhoea may cause problems since small babies rapidly lose water from their body and become dehydrated. In most cases you can prevent this by giving water mixed with sachets of minerals and sugar instead of bottled milk. In case of breast feeding, do not stop. Inform your doctor if your baby is not getting better.

Spots and Rashes

Spots and rashes are common and not usually serious. However, you should consult your doctor if your baby has a rash and is unwell or has a fever.

Fits and convulsions

In case of a fit put your child in a safe place such as on the floor. Lie your child on one side with the head turned to one side. Do not put anything into your child's mouth. Get help. Fits may sometimes happen when your child has a high temperature.

Burns and Scalds

Run cold water over the burnt area at once.

Keep running water for a few minutes.





Do not take off your child's clothes - instead run water over the clothes over the burnt area.

If there is blistering and the burn looks serious, call your doctor or take your child to the Health Centre or hospital's emergency department.

Head lice

Head lice do not imply unclean living conditions. They are tiny insects that live on the head and scalp. It is a common problem in nursery and school-age children. Head lice are spread by direct contact with the hair of infected persons and possibly with their personal items, such as hats, combs and brushes. Itching is a common symptom, and nits (lice eggs) adhere to individual hairs like glue and then hatch into the next generation of lice. They can be spotted behind the ears and at the nape of the neck and look like white or dark tiny ovals that move quickly.

To treat head lice:

If your child gets head lice, use a medicated shampoo, rinse, or lotion developed specifically for head lice. These treatments are powerful insecticides and may be toxic if not used as recommended. Removal of nits can be done with a fine-toothed comb. To assure effective treatment, check for any evidence of new infection daily for 10 days after treatment. If in doubt, consult your doctor.

To prevent the spread of head lice:

- Temporarily keep your child away from other children until 24hours after treatment.
- Do not apply these medicated shampoos, rinse or lotions to your child's hair unless to treat for head lice. They are not to be used for prevention. These are medicines and they could cause irritation to the scalp. Overuse encourages these head lice to become resistant to these medicines.

What to keep at home

Thermometer: there are various types to choose from. Your pharmacist can offer professional help in the choice of your 'easy to read' thermometer and how to use it. As a rule, do not use oral thermometers rectally. These can be dangerous.

Paracetamol: this is available as drops, suppositories or syrup.

Oral rehydration sachets: these are mixed with water and are ideal for fluid replacement when your child is vomiting or has diarrhoea.

First aid box: you can make up your own first aid box to keep at home. You can also put one in the car. You should include:

- Box of adhesive dressings (various sizes)
- Box of sterile gauze dressings (various sizes) for cuts
- Small packet of paper tissues to use as a temporary dressing
- 2 or 3 cotton bandages
- 2 or 3 crepe bandages for sprains
- Triangular bandage, or a clean old linen - to use as a slingor as a dressing for burns or scalds
- Small roll of cotton wool for padding (do not use directly on wounds)
- Blunt ended scissors (nursing scissors)
- Adhesive tape or safety pins for fastening dressings and slings
- Antiseptic cream only for use on minor cuts.

Keep all medicines out of children's reach. Keep them locked in a cupboard. Do not be tempted to keep the odd bottle out just for convenience. Check expiry dates before use.





Guidelines on your child's development

Children grow and develop at different rates. The following list is a guide of what to expect during the first three years. Do not worry if your child does not follow this chart exactly since each child is an individual as this chart is to be used simply as a quick guide. If your child fails to follow this pattern, consult your doctor.

The information on "Your baby's vision" and "Your baby's hearing" help you to check how well your baby can see or hear.

First days

A new-born baby sleeps most of the time and wakes only for feeds.

BETWEEN 0-3 months

Lifts head

First smile

Follows with eyes

Cooing

BETWEEN 3-6 months

Lifts head and chest when on

stomach

Rolling over

Reaches for and grasps objects

Laughs aloud

BETWEEN 6 - 12 months

Sitting alone

Pulls to stand

Walking around furniture

Babbles

Responds to name

Turns to sound

Transfers objects from one hand to

another

Waves bye-bye

Toys & ACTIVITIES 0-6 months

Mobiles, Rattles

Baby mirror

Pram toys

Baby gym

Musical toys

Toys for sucking and touching

Games with adults - singing, talking,

touching

Toys & ACTIVITIES 6-12 months

Activity centre

First bricks

Push along toy

Stacking toys



Your Child's Guide to Health

BETWEEN 12-18 months

First words

Picks up small objects with thumb

and first finger

Gives and takes toys on request

First attempt at building

Climbs

Feeds with spoon

BETWEEN

18 months - 2 years

Growing vocabulary of words, two word sentences

Walks backwards and sideways

Runs

Pretend play (makes a cup of tea

using a toy cup)

Indicates interest in something by

pointing with index finger

Shows eyes, nose, etc.

Scribbles

Potty training can start

BETWEEN 2-3 years

Speaks in short two to three word

sentences

Helps in dressing

Puts on shoes

Climbs stairs (two feet to step)

BETWEEN 3-5 years

Knows age

Dresses and undresses alone

Hops on one foot

Walks upstairs one foot per step

Names colours

Counts to 3 (or more)

Toys & ACTIVITIES 12-18 months

Sit and ride toys

Large bricks

Push and pull toys

Shape sorting box

Stacking toys

Non toxic crayon

Toys & Activities 18 months - 2 years

Simple puzzles

Outdoor toys - cart, ball

Constructive toys - bricks

Books

Old boxes, pots, pans and wooden

spoons

Toys & ACTIVITIES 2-3 years

Jigsaws, singing rhymes

Home play toys e.g. tea-set, cooker

Dolls, cars, farm animals Books, crayons and paints

Toys & ACTIVITIES 3-5 years

Dressing up

Playing at shop

Counting toys

Drawing crayons

Water play

Books









The Importance of Touch



To stimulate your baby's sense of touch, provide him with lots of interesting objects to explore. Don't worry too much about everything going in his mouth. As long as the object is clean, is large enough not to be swallowed and not sharp, let him discover how it feels in both his mouth and his hands. Notice how quickly he learns to handle things according to their different sizes and textures. You will see that he is more likely to scratch at grainy surfaces, but to touch smooth or furry things with a stroking movement. Offer him objects of different textures and sizes so that he has to gauge his hand movements accordingly using two hands for large objects, a pincer grip for small ones. Place objects at different distances from him so he has to judge his reaching movement. Give him two objects at once to make him use both hands, and watch how he brings the objects in contact with one another. Give him lots of opportunities to discover what happens when he bangs different things together or on the table. While the noise and the throwing may be irritating to you, remember that your budding little scientist isn't simply trying to cause a racket; he is actually exploring his ever-expanding world.





Your Baby's Hearing - A Parents Guide (pages 39-40)

Here is a check list of some of the general signs you can look for in your baby's first year. If you are concerned about your baby's hearing or language development at any stage, please do not hesitate to contact your doctor. Further hearing tests are needed if there is a suspicion that your child cannot hear.

AGE		YOUR	BABY
Soon after birth	Babies should be startled by sudden loud noises and will cry to express feelings of hunger and discomfort	Yes	No
By 1 - 2 months	Babies may listen to your voice and coo with pleasure	Yes	No
By 3 - 4 months	Babies will begin to quieten and smile to the sound of your voice, even when they cannot see you	Yes	No
	They smile, laugh and babble when talked to	Yes	No
By 6-7 months	Babies will begin to turn their head to your voice and respond with expression and feelings	Yes	No
	They vocalise to attract attention or express pleasure or annoyance	Yes	No
By 9 - 10 months	Babies will understand "no". They will make all sorts of sounds resembling a conversation	Yes	No
	They will search for quiet sounds made out of sight and may wave 'bye-bye'	Yes	No
	Babies may start to use special sounds for a familiar person or object	Yes	No
	They use a lot of speech like chatter and may repeat simple words	Yes	No
	They will understand simple commands	Yes	No



Your Child's Guide to Health

Your Baby's Vision - A Parents Guide (pages 42-43)

Here is a check list of the general signs you can look for in your baby's first year. When checking this you need to make sure you do not make any sound. If you are worried about your baby's eyes at any stage, seek advice from your doctor.

AGE		YOUR	BABY
By 2 months	Babies should look at you, follow your face and smile back at you	Yes	No
	When babies turn towards light, their eyes should usually move together	☐ Yes	□ No
By 6 months	Babies should be looking around and reaching for small objects	☐ Yes	□ No
	(If one eye turns inwards or outwards with- out the other, your baby may have a squint and this should be checked by a doctor)	☐ Yes	No
By 10 months	Babies should have learned to poke and take small objects and may watch and follow a toy falling off the table	Yes	No
By 12 months	Babies begin to point to things they want	Yes	No
	They recognize familiar people on seeing them come into the room.	Yes	No



Additional attention is given to the vision of children with the following conditions

- If a close relative had a turned eye or a lazy eye
- If a close relative is blind in one eye
- If your baby weighed less than 1500 grams at birth
- If your baby was born before 32 weeks gestation (7 months pregnancy)
- If your baby has a brain abnormality e.g. cerebral palsy

Your child's vision should be checked before starting school at 4-5 years of age.

Vision Warning Signs

Eyes turning inward or outward

Squinting

Headaches

Not doing as well at school work as before

Blurred or double vision











The Developing Sense of Vision



If you want to enhance your baby's sense of vision from early on, decorate his environment with bold geometric patterns and sharply contrasting colors (Black, white and red). This may not be very attractive to us as adults, but it is stimulating for the newborn. Remember that young infants are also particularly attracted to movement.

So next time you show your infant a new toy, move it slowly back and forth across his visual field. Notice how your baby first makes jerky movements but becomes increasingly expert as smoothly tracking these objects.

Also, try changing the pictures on his mobile from time to time. He will notice straight away as they will not match the visual image he has already formed in his memory.

All of these little challenges will help the development of your baby's sense of vision.



Healthy Eating right from the Start

What your child eats is very important for his or her health. The following are some guidelines

GUIDELINES FOR HEALTHY EATING

Birth-1 year:

Breast milk is ideal for infants from birth to at least 6 months of age. It provides perfect nutrition and protects against infection. During the first weeks of life, feeding on-demand is best. Later, three to four hourly feeds may be easily established. Expressed breast-milk can be stored in sterilised containers placed in refrigerators for 24 hours or in freezers for longer storage.

For further information and help with Breast Feeding you may contact:-

MMDNA	21387526 / 21385924 / 21385857
Delivery Suite, Mater Dei Hospital	25455170 / 6

Obstetric Ward 1, Mater Dei Hospital 25455140
Obstetric Ward 3, Mater Dei Hospital 25455100

Breast Feeding Clinic, Mater Dei Hospital 25454445

Well Baby Clinics (Health Centres):

B'Kara 21494960 (Monday) Paola 2367 5326 (Monday and Wednesday)

Floriana 2568 0226 (*Tuesday*) Mosta 21433256 (*Wednesday*) Gzira 21344766 (*Thursday*) Qormi 21484450 (*Friday*)

You can ask for two helpful booklets; Breastfeeding successfully / 'II-Ħalib ta' I-Omm' and Guidelines for infant weaning and feeding, available from 'Ċentru tagħrif dwar Saħħtek', Merchant's Street, Valletta.

If breast feeding is not possible, iron-enriched formula milk is used during the first 12 months of life. When preparing feeds, do not add anything extra to your baby's milk. Strictly follow the instructions on the packet.

NOTHING BEATS MOTHER'S MILK



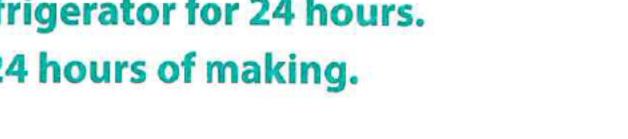


Bottle and feeding

- Sterilise the bottles. Germs breed quickly in warm milk. Freshly prepared milk can be stored in a refrigerator for 24 hours.
- Discard any feeds not used within 24 hours of making.
- Do not reheat any left-over milk.
- Do not heat your baby's feeds in a microwave because it heats unevenly and could burn your baby's mouth. At age 12 months (one year) fresh cow's milk can be used to replace formula milk.

Weaning and feeding

- Weaning should start at 6 months and never earlier. Mothers who have successfully breast fed their infants may continue to exclusively breast feed till 6 months. By the 6th month complementary foods are started. Suitable first foods include rice cereal or liquidised single fruits or vegetables.
- Start new foods one at a time to make it easier to notice which foods upsets your baby. Do not add salt to the baby's food. Use chicken and other iron-rich foods such as iron-enriched cereals and other grains.
- From 6-7 months slowly introduce a normal, mixed diet. You can try
 yoghurt, fish, mashed fruits, minced meat and grated cheese. Breastfeeding is continued throughout to complement the weaning.
- From 7 months onwards you can try 'finger foods' but remember babies can choke on crumbly foods. These can include brown bread or toast, peeled sliced apples, pears, carrots, small sandwiches and thin slices of cheese.
- Do not limit fat during the first 2 years of life.(Low fat products should not be used during the first two years of life).
- Eggs, cow's milk and foods containing egg or liver should not be introduced before 12 months.
- Vitamin supplements may be needed in infants born prematurely.
 Before starting any vitamins consult your doctor.



hould not be intron prematurely.

At I year and older:

- Breastfeeding may be continued right up to 2 years if mother and child so wish
- Provide a variety of foods, including plenty of fruits, vegetables, cereals like pasta, rice, bread and other wheat-based products dairy products like cheese, cow's milk (not skimmed), yoghurt and rikotta, fish, chicken, lean meat, egg, pulses and legumes
- Sugars and salt are to be kept to a minimum. Your child gets used to healthy eating from the very beginning
- Help your child maintain a healthy weight by providing proper foods and encouraging regular physical activity
- Include the child in family meals
- Bottle feeding should be stopped and replaced by a cup









The Developing Sense of Taste and Smell



At birth, your new baby's sense of smell is already incredibly well developed and helps him identify and locate things in the world before even trying to focus on them visually.

As soon as she was born, your baby started learning to recognize the special smell of each of her parents. Cuddling your newborn against your bare skin is really beneficial in the first few weeks when odors can be so comforting. It is important to remember that your tiny infant is bombarded with new experiences at every waking moment. If she recognizes a smell that she has linked to feelings of security and calm, she will be better equipped to deal with the stresses of new situations.

The advanced sense of smell also plays a role in preparing your baby for the time when she will start weaning.

Food odors are generally the most palatable and often the most interesting of smells. At around six months you will probably be advised by your Health Professional to start weaning. At this stage offering solid food is not about filling her up. She still gets all the nourishment she needs from milk. But tasting new food is a real experience for your little one, as this is when her personal sense of taste really comes alive. Once weaning gets underway, your baby begins to link odors she smells to what she tastes, creating ever-new links between the various area in her brain responsible for different sensorial experiences. So make sure that during the months leading up to her first birthday you offer as wide a range of tastes as possible. Try not to be tempted to omit foods that you yourself dislike. Your baby needs to be given the chance to develop her own preferences. And remember, every time she samples something new, she will enrich her developing sense of taste.



Dental / Oral Health

Your child needs regular dental care starting at an early age. Good oral health requires good daily care.

BABIES UP TO ONE YEAR

- When teeth appear, keep your child's teeth and gums clean by wiping with a moist cloth.
- Do not use sugared dummies, fruit juice or honey from a beaker or bottle as a night comforter - this will lead to tooth decay.
- Do not leave a baby bottle in your child's mouth after he / she has fallen asleep. It could be dangerous.
- Try to avoid prolonged use of dummies and thumb sucking.
- Ask for sugar-free medicines if your child is ill.

FOR OLDER CHILDREN

- Begin gentle brushing of your child's teeth using a peasize amount of tooth paste with fluoride.
- Get into a simple tooth care routine and always supervise your child's brushing.
- Encourage your child to brush teeth first thing in the morning and last thing at night.
- Change your toothbrush regularly, at least every 3 months.
- Avoid the frequent intake of sugary drinks, snacks and especially in between meals.
- Always read the food labels and beware of sucrose, glucose, fructose or glucose syrup. They are all names for sugar and can cause tooth decay.
- Never permit your child to smoke or chew tobacco set a good example and quit smoking yourself.
- Visit your dentist at least once every year.



- If a permanent tooth is knocked out completely, place the tooth in a glass of cold milk and see your dentist immediately.
- Using dental floss can help prevent gum disease. Discuss this with your dentist about when to start.

Dental advice and treatment is provided for all school children through the School Dental Service / Health Centres and School Dental Clinic.

It is important for your dentist to know about your child's general health so please take this book with you when visiting your dentist.

Visits to the dentist

Date	Advice and treatment	Seen by

Safety Guidelines

Accidents do happen. However, here is a simple checklist of safety guidelines. Tick those which you follow, and try and introduce those which you do not. Making changes to your behaviour and homes will protect your family from harm.

Safety Guidelines Checklist

Infa	ants and young Children
	Never hold a baby in your arms in the front seat and never put a seat belt round both yourself and the baby in your arms.
	In your car, use a rear facing baby seat, which can be put on either the front or back seat. If the car is fitted with passenger-side air bags then the baby seat should be placed on the back seat.
	As your child grows, use a child seat or an approved booster seat with harness / seat belt suitable for the child's weight which is fitted on the back of the car.
	Keep medicines, cleaning solutions, and other dangerous substances

Use safety gates across stairways and guards on windows above the
first floor.

☐ Keep hot water heater temperatures below 120°F (below 49°C).

locked up and out of your child's reach.

Always fill bath-tub with lukewarm water to prevent scalds. Check water temperature with your hands before bathing your child.

Leep hot drinks or food well out of the reach of grabbing hands.

Never leave your child alone in the kitchen or bathroom.

Use the back rings of your cooker and turn saucepans handles away from the front.

☐ Keep unused electrical outlets covered with plastic guards.







motorcycle.
Educate your child to use protective equipment such as mouth guards, pads, sports goggles and helmets when playing contact sports, roller-skating or skateboarding.
Do not store dangerous liquids in everyday containers e.g. paraffin in a juice bottle as it may be drunk by accident.
Keep stairs clear of any objects.
Educate your child to deal with anger and conflict without using violence. Set a good example for your child.

The following guidelines may decrease the risk of cot death /Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS)

- Lay your baby down to sleep either on his back or side with the lower arm forward.
- Once your baby is able to roll over on his own, there's no reason to stop your baby sleeping in the position he prefers.
- Don't let your baby get too hot 22°C 24°C is the ideal temperature for your baby's room.
- Never smoke anywhere near your baby.



neck or stomach.



Physical Activity

Regular physical activity is vital to maintain your body and mind in good working condition. Leading an active lifestyle enhances further health benefits that should be started and promoted as early as possible in life.

Through increased physical activity/education, your child attains the following health benefits:

- development of fundamental motor skills needed for participation in leisure physical activities
- promotion of physical fitness
- increased energy expenditure
- promotion of positive attitudes towards an active lifestyle.

Research also shows that physical education may enhance academic performance and mental well-being.

Unfortunately nowadays there is an increased risk of children becoming obese or overweight due to little energy expenditure and/or consumption of high-calorie snacks. It is important for parents to be well informed and able to offer sound advice about proper nutrition and good exercise/activity habits. Another good idea is to monitor and limit the time your child spends in front of television or computers. Encourage him/her to engage in more energy expending activities throughout the day.

Remember, however, that 'action' speaks louder than 'words'. Become more active yourself to increase your own health benefits. From an early age, invite your child to practise with you in your exercise programme. Create leisure bouts of activities that are fun and enjoyable. In this manner, your message will be transmitted discretely and effectively.

Enjoying the Sun Safely

Babies and young children love to play on the beach and outdoors, but exposure to sunlight is a significant cause of skin cancer. Although skin cancer affects adults, the effects of exposure to the sun starts at a very young age, and much of the damage happens in childhood.

Sunlight is made up of three different kinds of ultraviolet radiation, two of which - Ultraviolet A (UVA) and Ultraviolet B (UVB) reach the earth's surface and can cause damage and contribute to an increased risk of skin cancer.

Sun Protection Plan

- Never leave or take babies out in the sun.
- Keep your child out of the sun between 11am and 3pm, and in the shade as much as possible at other times. If you have to go out, make sure your child is wearing light cotton clothes.
- Cover up. Dress your baby/toddler in loose clothing which will allow air to circulate around the skin. Make sure his/her arms and feet are covered. Put on a hat with a wide brim that shields his/her face and neck and sunglasses.
- Shield skin. Use a sunscreen with protection above 30 on all exposed skin. Apply sunscreen freely and re-apply every two hours when your child is playing outside.
- Prevent overheating. Keep a close watch on your child to ensure he/she does not become too hot. Offer water to prevent dehydration.

The best protection for your child is to stay indoors, and babies under one year should never be exposed to direct sunlight.





Smoke Free is Best

A smoke-free environment will benefit the health of all your family. If you or your family members are exposed to tobacco smoke, the risk of illness increases dramatically.

Unfortunately parental smoking is very damaging to your little ones.

Babies exposed to tobacco smoke at home are at increased risk of sudden infant death (also known as cot death).

Young children exposed to parental smoke are more likely to suffer from chest problems especially in the first year of life.

It is NEVER too late to quit smoking

Here are the health benefits of quitting tobacco smoking. You will:

- be less at risk from major illnesses
- feel healthier
- have a positive influence on your family's health status
- have more money to spend on healthier choices e.g. healthy food, a health club or a family vacation

If you smoke and you are thinking of quitting.....here are some things that are good to know:

- If you do not manage the first time to quit smoking do not give up; instead learn from your mistakes and 'TRY AGAIN'.
- The more attempts you have made, the greater the chances that 'you will be successful'.

Why should I risk my child's health if there is something I can do?



Here are some questions that as parents, you may discuss with your children about tobacco smoking:

Child (4-8) yrs	What do you think about smoking? Do you think it looks cool?
Teen (11-14) yrs	Do any of your friends smoke? Do you feel tempted?
Teen (14-18) yrs	Do you smoke?
	Do you feel hooked or do you think you can stop?

Evidence shows that children whose parents (one or both) smoke are also more likely to take up smoking later in life. If you require further assistance on nutrition, quitting smoking, prevention of sexually transmitted diseases call the **Health Promotion Department on 2326 600.** From time to time visit 'Centru Taghrif Dwar Sahhtek' Merchants Street, Valletta and pick your copy of newly published leaflets that cover interesting health topics.

Keep yourself well informed about your own health and your family's!





Avoiding Child Abuse

Child abuse is a hidden but serious problem. It can happen to any family. The trauma, both physical and emotional, can last for a lifetime. Your child cannot protect him/herself. We as carers must protect our little ones.

Sometimes as parents you may be under a lot of stress with financial problems, or feeling that things are out of control, possibly as a result of an unhappy marriage. These difficulties can cause parents to hit their children. If you are hitting your children and feel that you are out of control seek help. Advice and support are available for parents with children of all ages. If there are alcohol problems in the family you may want to seek help.

Ways To Prevent Child Abuse

- Tell your child not to let anyone touch his or her private parts
- Tell your child to say 'no' and run away from sexual touches/ advances
- If your child reports to you any physical or sexual abuse take it seriously - report any suspicious incidents to the Child Protective Services Unit
- If you feel angry and out of control, leave the room, take a walk, take deep breaths, or count to 100. Stay away from alcohol or drugs - these make anger harder to control
- If you are afraid of losing self-control, get help now! Call someone and ask for help - talk to a friend or relative, or your trusting health carer
- Devote time for yourself share your child's care with your partner, get baby-sitting from friends or use day care facilities
- Less stress helps you cope better with your child's care

Bullying

Bullying is not easy to define. Sometimes it involves hitting or kicking, but threats, teasing, and taunting are more common and can be

As your Child Grows

You as parents are a child's first and most important teachers. Your example by word and action will show your child how to trust and depend on people and circumstances. This will be the basis for your child's future views on people and how to relate to them.

Your child needs encouragement, guidance and discipline. Praising for jobs well done will help your child develop confidence and secure his/her personality. Discipline involves protection, prevention and safe limits. These measures will keep your child safe, help him/her feel secure and learn how to live with other people. Your child benefits from having consistent standards and models to follow, although as parents this may be difficult from time to time.

As children grow up, their feelings swing between being dependent on their parents and wanting to do things themselves. These feelings continue throughout the teenage years and need to be recognised and accepted as part of growing up.

following

organisations provide

courses on parental skills:

CARITAS Tel:

25906600/21233933

As your child grows up, he or she will have to deal with many important health issues.

Some of these issues are:

- Alcohol
- **Birth Control**
- Bullying
- Drugs
- Sexuality
- **Sexually Transmitted Diseases** including AIDS
- **Smoking**

SEDQA Tel: 23885110 as well as the EDUCATION DIVISION through your child's Try to be well-informed about these issues. Many local organisations provide literature and you may talk to your child's doctor or other health professional, even while your child is still young.

Begin to teach your child to make responsible choices at an early age as consequences can have a lifelong effect. Take time to 'be there' to listen, to advise, and support your child. The rewards will be worth the effort.



more damaging. The word 'bullying' is used to describe many different types of behaviour ranging from teasing or deliberately leaving an individual out of a social gathering or ignoring them, to serious assaults and abuse. Sometimes it is an individual who is doing the bullying and sometimes it is a group. The important issue is not the action but the effect on the victim. No one should ever underestimate the fear that a bullied child feels.

Tips For Helping Children deal with Bullies

- Teach your children early on to steer clear of any youth with bullying behaviour.
- Teach your children to be assertive rather than aggressive or violent when confronted by a bully. Instruct them to walk away and get help from an adult in more dangerous situations. Practice various responses with your children through role-playing.
- Teach your children to never defend themselves from bullies with a gun or other weapon.
- Keep communication lines open with your children. Encourage your child to share information about school and school-related activities.
- Pay attention to the following symptoms that may indicate your child is being bullied: withdrawal, abrupt lack of interest in school, a drop in grades, or signs of physical abuse.
- If your child is a victim of bullying at school, inform school officials immediately. Keep your own written records of the names, dates, times, and circumstances of bullying incidents. Submit a copy of this report to the school principal.
- Respond to your child's concerns and fears with patience, love and support.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Useful Numbers:

Crisis Intervention Unit: 179 (Support line)
Domestic violence Unit: 21 234 734, 21 234 735

Alcohol Anonymous: 21 239 264

CARITAS: 2590 6600, 21 233 933

Sedga: 2388 5110

Children need your love and security to grow. Your child has the right to be free from assault

Emergency telephone numbers

	Name	Phone number
Child's doctor		
Hospital		
Health Centre		
Police		112
Ambulance		112
Fire	19	112





USEFUL ADDRESSES AND PHONE NUMBERS

Name	Address	Phone
Family Doctor		8
Specialist doctor		
Dentist		
Child Care Centre		
Kindergarten		
Primary School		
Secondary School		
Local Council		
Other		

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