



Come Grow with Us



Partners with the Community
for Healthy Children

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Health education and resource information for child care providers

**York Region revised September 2009
Red Flags: A Quick Reference Guide for
Early Years Professionals in York Region**



What is the Red Flags Guide?

This document is a quick reference guide to assess children up to the age of six years for growth and development by domains. It also includes factors that affect the dynamics of parent-child interaction and that impact child health, growth and development, such as postpartum mood disorder and abuse.

Red Flags allows early years professionals to review and better understand on a continuum the domains that are traditionally outside their own area of expertise. This helps to better understand when and where to make referrals for further investigation or intervention in York Region. Domains used in this document have been organized alphabetically for easy use.

Who Should Use the Red Flags Guide?

This document is intended for early years professionals working with young children up to the age of six and their families. **A basic knowledge of healthy child development is assumed.**

Purpose and Goal

The purpose of this guide is to promote the early identification of children who need additional resources to meet their developmental milestones.

The goal is to ensure that all children in York Region are able to reach their optimal developmental potential.

Where can I get a copy?

You can download the guide for free from the York Region website at www.york.ca/redflags.

If you prefer to have a hard copy of the guide, please fill out an order form and mail, fax or e-mail to the address indicated on the form. The order form is at www.york.ca/redflags. There is a charge for ordering five or more hard copies.

Your feedback is important.

Please fill out an online survey at www.york.ca/redflags. All responses are confidential and anonymous. The survey takes 5-10 minutes and you can choose to have your name included in a draw for one of three gift certificates to a York Region *Eat Smart!* Restaurant.





Partners with the Community
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Nipissing District Development Screens (NDDS)

Checklists are available for the following ages:

1-2 months 4 months 6 months 9 months 12 months
15 months 18 months 24 months 30 months
3 years 4 years 5 years 6 years



Each checklist explores a child's development in the areas of vision, hearing, speech, language and communication, physical movement, understanding, emotional awareness, interacting with others and independence. Checklists are available in English, French, Chinese, Spanish and Vietnamese and are free to parents in York Region with children birth to 6 years of age. Online interactive Screens are also available at www.ndds.ca.

Checklists:

- ✓ Are easy to use
- ✓ Provide age appropriate activities
- ✓ Encourage healthy growth and development
- ✓ Encourage ways to comfort, play and teach children

because the early years matter!



Together we can help children reach their potential!



The first six years of a child's life has the greatest impact on their future learning, health and behaviour. The Early Years set the stage for self-confidence, well being and readiness to learn at school.

Nipissing District Development Screens™ help determine whether a child's development is progressing as it should. The screens are checklists that require "Yes" or "No" answers to development questions. This helps parents/caregivers to know what to expect from a child at a specific age.

Talk to a health care professional if you have any questions about a child's development or well-being



For more information, please call
Health Connection at
1-800-361-5653
TTY 1-866-252-9933