

Module 1: Understanding Chronic Conditions

Handout E: Development and Chronic Conditions

Child's Age	Child's Development	Family's Development	Effect of Chronic Conditions on Child/Family Development
Infant (birth to one year old)	Develop relationships with special people Feed, make sounds, move, and touch to learn about self and the world Develop trust that their needs will be met	Develop a relationship and fall in love with the new baby Integrate the baby into family life Adjust to new family roles, e.g., from being a couple to being parents, from being an only child to being a big brother or sister	Infant's frailty or parent's fear of loss may inhibit physical contact and bonding Siblings may be jealous of extra attention parents give to infant
Toddler (one to three years old)	Develop a sense of independence and control, e.g., "I can do it myself!" Test the boundaries of being separate from special adults	Encourage exploration and growing mastery of skills Help siblings accommodate the growing abilities of the toddler	Child's condition might limit play and exploration Family may be afraid to allow child to explore and face challenges
Pre-schooler (three to five years old)	Develop a sense of mastery and success Feel like an important member of the family and group of friends	Encourage child's growing independence Create a bridge for child from the world of home to the world outside	Child may think he caused the condition, e.g., "I have diabetes because I ate candy" or "My brother has hemophilia because I hit him" Child becoming aware of differences between self and other children Family may have lower expectations of child's behavior and achievement