

Before Assessment:

1. Review “reason for referral” and medical history
2. Consider all factors that can affect infant’s movement/motor control i.e. state of alertness, physical well-being, baby’s size
3. The hallmark of normal development is “variety”. Baby’s movements need not be perfectly matched to those discussed in this course, but need to be similar.
4. Atypical movements can be subtle
5. Asymmetry is most always a reason for concern

During Assessment:

1. Include Parents and Caregivers
 - Tell them what to expect
 - Ask for any specific concerns
 - Encourage parent/caregiver participation as baby may be more willing to respond to familiar persons
2. Set Baby Up for Success
 - Make sure baby is calm and ready to engage
 - Interaction should be used to ease baby into the assessment as well as throughout the session
 - Give baby time to respond to cues, handling, position
3. Establish a Comfortable Environment
 - Comfortable temperature control of assessment room
 - Minimize extraneous noise and visual stimulation
 - Evaluate baby in the diaper (if able) to be able to observe movement more easily
 - Gently transition from parent/caregiver to observation surface
 - Position baby on firm, flat, and comfortable surface

After Assessment:

Knowing how a typical baby moves and what postural control is available at different ages in each position helps to identify delays and potential motor control deficiencies. Early identification affords early intervention.

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