

Steps of Life Calendar

The Steps of Life Calendar© is a custom, three-panel chart, available in three sizes, that documents the impact of a brain injury on a plaintiff aged from infant to 6 years.

The Steps of Life Calendar demonstrates the difference between a normal child's development and that of the brain-injured child, by showing the difference between the developmental age and the chronological age as a result of the injury. A "normal child" is defined as one in which the development and chronological ages match. In contrast, a "brain-injured child" has a developmental age that is below that of their chronological age.

The Steps of Life Calendar covers four (4) developmental areas: language, gross motor, fine motor and personal-social. This calendar is derived using data from the Denver Developmental Screening Test, a standard test accepted by the medical community as an evaluation tool for brain injuries. The plaintiff's medical professionals typically complete this test, the results of which are then provided to Robert W. Johnson & Associates to prepare the Steps of Life Calendar.

The Steps of Life Calendar is designed to be presented by the attorney at the settlement conference or trial. By powerfully summarizing the deficit suffered by the plaintiff, the Steps of Life Calendar shows how the injury has profoundly diminished the normal activities of the child, and illustrates the loss that the Jury Instruction tasks the jury to compensate.

Life Activity Key

Every normal child develops along a typical range of measurable activities. The first panel of the “Steps of Life” Life Activity Calendar provides a color- and number-coded key to those typical activities accepted by the medical community as gauges of a child’s development over time.

**Key to Development Chart* for
NORMAL
4-Year-Old**

PERSONAL / SOCIAL

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Regards face 2 Smiles responsively 3 Smiles spontaneously 4 Feeds self crackers 5 Works for toy out of reach 6 Plays peek-a-boo 7 Resists toy pull 8 Initially shy with strangers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9 Plays pat-a-cake 10 Indicates wants (not cry) 11 Plays ball with examiner 12 Drinks from cup 13 Imitates housework 14 Removes garment 15 Uses spoon, spilling little 16 Helps in house, simple tasks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 17 Puts on clothing 18 Washes & dries hands 19 Plays interactive games 20 Dresses w/ supervision
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FINE MOTOR / ADAPTIVE

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Follows to midline 2 Equal movements 3 Follows past midline 4 Hands together 5 Follows 180° 6 Grasps rattle 7 Regards raisin 8 Reaches for object 9 Passes cube hand to hand 10 Sitting, looks for yarn 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 11 Sitting, takes 2 cubes 12 Rakes raisin attains 13 Thumb-finger grasp 14 Bangs 2 cubes held in hands 15 Neat pincer grasp of raisin 16 Tower of 2 cubes 17 Dumps raisin from bottle demonstratively 18 Scribbles spontaneously 19 Tower of 4 cubes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 20 Dumps raisin from bottle spontaneously 21 Imitates vertical line within 30° 22 Copies ○○○ 23 Tower of 8 cubes 24 Imitates bridge
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LANGUAGE

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Responds to bell 2 Vocalizes not crying 3 Laughs 4 Squeals 5 Turns to voice 6 Dada or mama non-specific 7 Imitates speech sounds 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8 Dada or mama specific 9 3 words other than dada, mama 10 Points to 1 named body part 11 Combines 2 different words 12 Names 1 picture 13 Follows directions, 2 of 3 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 14 Uses plurals 15 Gives first and last name
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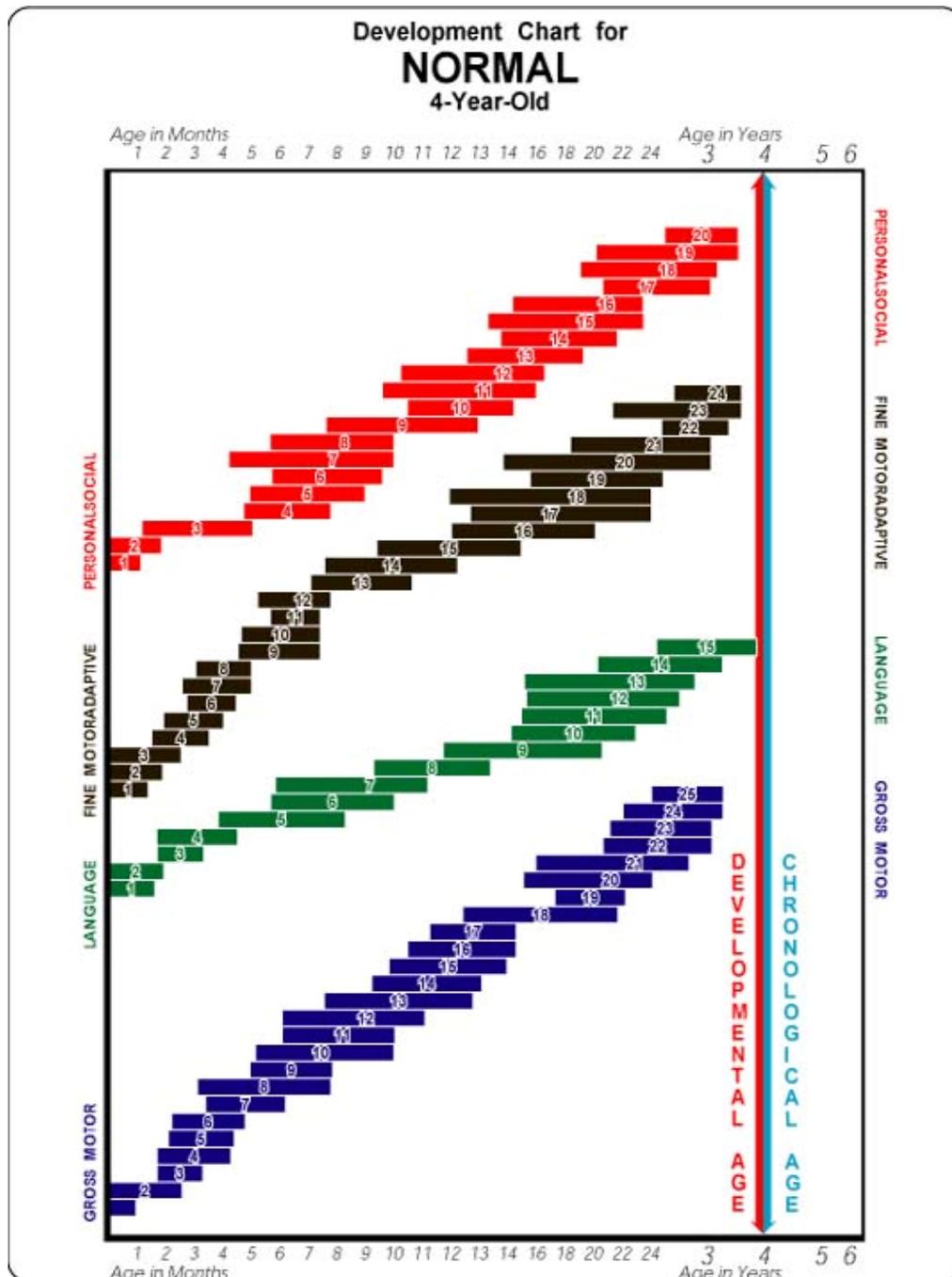
GROSS MOTOR

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 On stomach, lifts head 2 On stomach, head up 45° 3 On stomach, head up 90° 4 Sitting, head steady 5 On stomach, chest up and support 6 Rolls over 7 Pull to sit, no head lag 8 Bear some weight on legs 9 Sits without support 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10 Stands holding on 11 Pulls self to stand 12 Gets to sitting 13 Walks holding on furniture 14 Stands momentarily 15 Stands alone well 16 Stoops & recovers 17 Walks well 18 Walks backwards 19 Walks up steps 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 20 Kicks ball forward 21 Throws ball overhand 22 Jumps in place 23 Pedals tricycle 24 1 second balance on one foot, 2 of 3 25 Broad jump
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*Derived from Denver Developmental Screening Test

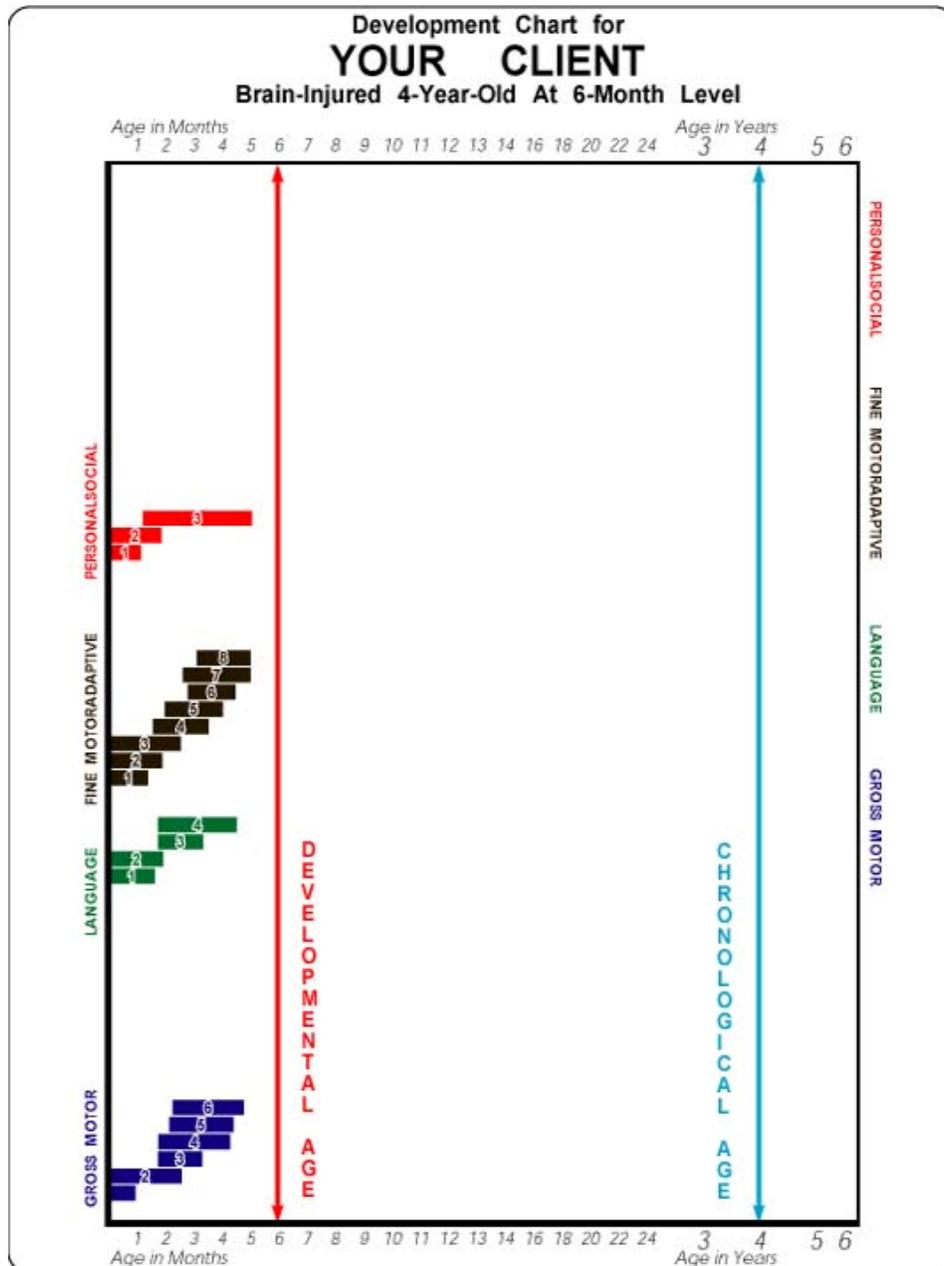
Development of a Normal Child

The second panel of the “Steps of Life” shows the developmental achievements of a normal child (in whom the developmental and chronological ages match) of the same chronological age as the plaintiff. This establishes a standard to aid the jury in evaluating the deficit suffered by the plaintiff.



Development of the Injured Child

A sharp contrast is drawn in the third and final panel, which illustrates the deficit suffered by the injured child. The gap between the plaintiff's developmental and chronological ages illustrates without words to the extent of the deficit the plaintiff suffers.



Need a Life Activity Calendar for Your Case?

Preparation of the Steps of Life Calendar preparation is simple. A copy of the Denver Development Screening Test administered by the plaintiff's medical expert is all that Robert W. Johnson & Associates needs to prepare this powerful, graphic tool for your case.

Various sizes of Steps of Life Calendars are available to suit different venues for presentations:

- Settlement conference (8.5" x 11" three-panel portfolio)
- Trial (three separate panels, 2' x 3' each)
- Custom

Contact Robert W. Johnson & Associates at 650-494-2413 or 800-541-7435 to get started.