

# Windows of Opportunity

"Windows of opportunity" are the periods of time when your child is most ready to acquire certain skills. These windows are neurological wiring timetables. Windows of opportunity for learning open even before you see any signs of your child reaching a developmental milestone. It's important to know when they occur, because that is when your child is most primed for learning. The first few years of your child's life are crucial when it comes to their emotional, social and intellectual development. As a parent, you're laying the foundation for a lifetime of learning.

Wiring outside a window will not result in the optimum results that wiring within the windows will promote. For example, your child is primed to learn reading skills and vocabulary from birth, so if you wait until she is able to talk to start a relationship with books; you've missed much of the ideal time to create a strong foundation in reading. If a child is older than the ideal age, new pathways can be formed by repetition – it just takes a lot longer. For example, a young child can easily learn a new language, but it takes an adult much longer.

WINDOW	WIRING OPPORTUNITY	GREATEST ENHANCEMENT
<b>Emotional Intelligence</b>	0-48 months	4-8 years
Trust	0-14 months	
Impulse control	16-48 months	
<b>Social Development</b>	0-48 months	4 years to puberty
Attachment	0-12 months	
Independence	12-24 months	
Cooperation	24-36 months	
<b>Thinking Skills</b>	0-48 months	4 years to puberty
Cause and Effect	0-16 months	
Problem-Solving	16-48 months	
<b>Motor Development</b>	0-24 months	2 years to puberty
<b>Reading Foundation Skills</b>	0-24 months	2-7 years
Early Sounds	4-8 months	8 mos. – 10 years
Vocabulary	0-24 months	2-5 years