



Red Flags: Social Emotional

Concerns may arise from the child's behavior, identified risk factors within the family or environment, and/or poor attachment between caregiver and child. One or more of these items **seen in a pattern over several mealtimes** may be a Red Flag for concerns in the area of social emotional development in young children with visual impairment. Always consider **consistency** and **impact** on the mealtime.

Behaviors that may be signs of unmet emotional needs:

- Poor sleep
- Lacking emotional expressive sounds such as cooing, babbling, or whimpering
- Having a sad affect
- Resisting being held or touched
- Being difficult to soothe or console
- Appearing fearful
- Clinging excessively to caregiver
- Inability to comfort or console oneself

Family risk factors:

- Maternal depression
- Caregivers with substance abuse history
- Caregivers with mental illness history
- Domestic violence in the home
- Foster care
- Poverty, including food insecurity
- Exposure to maltreatment
- Environmental trauma or insecurity

Dyad risk factors:

- Disorganized, ambivalent, or avoidant attachment
- Lack of enjoyment in caregiver/child company
- Lack of reciprocal engagement including eye contact and touch
- Poor reading of cues on the part of the caregiver

Adapted from Early Childhood Connections Technical Assistance Brief Aug. 2007

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