

6 Functional Domains for Child Social Security Cases

Social Security considers a child disabled if they have **marked limitations in two domains** or **extreme limitations in one domain**.

Marked Limitation

More than moderate, but less than extreme limitations on daily activities in a domain. To qualify for this rating, medical conditions must interfere with the child's ability to independently initiate, sustain, and complete age-appropriate activities.

Extreme Limitation

The worst limitations receive this rating, but it does not necessarily mean complete lack of function. To qualify for this rating, medical conditions must *very seriously* interfere with the child's ability to independently initiate, sustain, and complete age-appropriate activities.

Domain 1

Acquiring & Using Information

This domain considers a child's **ability to learn**. This includes how well a child acquires or learns information, and how well the child applies that information.



Attending & Completing Tasks

Domain 2

This domain considers a child's **ability to concentrate and complete tasks**. This includes a child's ability to focus. It also considers how well a child begins, carries through, and finishes activities, including the pace at which the activities are done and the ease with which the child changes them.

Domain 3

Interacting with & Relating to Others

This domain considers a child's **ability to socialize with others**. This includes how well a child initiates and sustains emotional connections with others, develops and uses language, cooperates with others, complies with rules, responds to criticism, and respects and takes care of the possessions of others.



Moving About & Manipulating Objects

Domain 4

This domain considers a child's **physical ability to do tasks and their motor skills development**. This includes how a child moves his or her body from one place to another and how the child moves and manipulates things.

Domain 5

Caring for Yourself

This domain does *not* include a child's physical ability to care for themselves, *but rather* their **ability to manage stress and remember to do self-care tasks**. This includes things such as how the child copes with stress, whether the child takes care of their own health, possessions, and living area, and how well the child gets their physical and emotional wants and needs met.



Health & Physical Wellbeing

Domain 6

This domain considers things that don't fall into any other domain and can be considered a "catch all" category. This includes the **cumulative effect of medical conditions, medication side effects, and the effect treatment has on the child's physical and mental health**.



Functional Domain Milestones for: Preschoolers 3 - 5

Typical developmental milestones and benchmarks are listed below. Any of these listed benchmarks that your child has not hit or cannot physically do can be used as evidence of your child's disability, but only if the limitation is documented in your child's medical record.



Domain 1

Acquiring & Using Information

- Increased reading comprehension
- Uses words to ask questions
- Remembers order of daily routines, and can follow directions
- Understands and remembers their own achievements
- Understands more complex concepts

Domain 2

Attending & Completing Tasks

- Engages in activities uninterrupted
- Can maintain attention and concentrate on tasks
- Takes turns and switch activities calmly
- Can entertain themselves by playing independently

Domain 3

Interacting with & Relating to Others

- Communicates clearly enough to be understood
- Understands and can follow simple rules
- Increased ability to socialize, show affection, and share with others
- Uses words instead of actions



Domain 4

Moving About & Manipulating Objects

- Easily walks and runs, can climb stairs
- Can use crayons, cut with scissors, and handle small objects like buttons
- Plays more independently, can finish simple puzzles easily



Domain 5

Caring for Yourself

- More agreeable (less defiant) to following instructions from caregiver
- Attempts to do things they are not completely able to do
- Starts learning to control behavioral outbursts and is better able to regulate emotions

Domain 6

Health & Physical Wellbeing

This domain is different than the others, because it does not describe any typical development for any age group. Rather, it addresses things such as:

- The cumulative effect of medical conditions
- Medication side effects
- The effects medical treatment has on the child's physical and mental health

This can include physical effects (like energy level, dizziness, weakness, nausea) that affect a child's ability to participate in age-appropriate activities, but would not be included in the domain of "Moving About and Manipulating Objects", as they do not pertain to the child's physical state or motor skills.