



## Important Developmental Markers

Source: Arnold,C., Bartlett,S., Hill,J., Khatiwada,C. & Sapkota,P. (2000). *Bringing up children in a changing world.*

*Who's right? Whose rights?: Conversations with families in Nepal.* Save the Children/UNICEF. p. 41.

**W**hen parents were asked to describe significant events and landmarks in their children's development, there was a range of responses. In all the villages some parents pointed to indicators routinely used for discussing early development in the formal ECD world – their children's physical growth and capacities, their progress in language, their interactions with other people and their growth in understanding, generally with an emphasis on the development of work related skills. In some cases there appeared to be a greater recall for children's achievement of certain skills, and greater interest in some of the subtleties of interaction and achievement. This was especially true in Koldanda, where parents recounted in detail such events as their children's increased reluctance to deal with unfamiliar people at about eight months, their growing ability to figure things out, and the pride they took in their competence.

### **A Koldanda timeline: The development of Naresh Gharti, a boy of almost four years**

- At seven months he started to walk holding on to things
- At nine months his first teeth appeared
- At 18 months he could walk easily, eat alone, imitate dances and songs
- At two years he started to speak, and by two years, six months he could say short sentences
- At two years, seven months he could do what his parents asked, imitate and follow family members
- At three, he could count up to 18, catch and play with baby goats, do small tasks, go to toilet alone, shut the door, fetch the water in a small one litre jar, help to bring dishes at food time, swing alone, climb small trees and walls. He wanted to bathe by himself, could tease his elder brother, and could distinguish between more and less.
- At three years, two months he would sneak up to touch his friend, then run to escape. Once he ran up on to the roof, fell back down and was knocked unconscious. They went to hospital in Tansen and the doctor gave him medicine.
- At three years, six months he talked about the work other people were doing, fought with his brother and demanded the same amount of food. He was able to do the work he was asked for, and very much wanted to play with other children. He would count things that people gave him, and tell them how much they had given him.
- When Naresh is four years old, his parents expect that he will be able to go to take messages to the neighbors, say whether his clothes are inside out, button his clothes, and do a lot of chores.
- At five to six years of age, they expect him to be able to go to school, to transfer food neatly to his own dish, bath nicely and show respect