

# Primitive Reflex Assessment

You may have heard the term “primitive reflexes” but what are Primitive Reflexes?

At birth, primitive reflexes are present to assist in survival - most develop in utero. These involuntary movement patterns are designed to keep the newborn alive and help with development throughout infancy. They are essentially the foundation for higher-level learning and development. These primitive reflexes do not stay forever; they should integrate - go away - typically around 12 months of age, some closer to two or three years old. When a primitive reflex integrates, it makes way for new, more mature movement patterns and higher-level learning to develop.

To be more scientific, when a new movement pattern is developed, it creates new neural pathways in the brain, thus prompting higher-level skill development. For example, an infant must first develop head and neck control before learning to sit upright independently. If the infant does not develop head and neck control, he/she will be unable to sit upright without assistance. If a reflex does not integrate, development may be hindered, and the infant may not gain higher-level skills.

Typical childhood activities such as: playing with peers, running and jumping, learning to read and write, self-care tasks, and many more can be impacted by retained primitive reflexes.

We offer Primitive Reflex Assessments, and then we can offer a programme of work that can be completed at home and in school.

Completed by an experienced Child Therapist/Clinical Social Worker.



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