

# Library Outreach: Fostering Developmental Growth

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**New Hampshire Family Voices (NHFV)** supports children with special healthcare needs and their families by providing information, training, and resources.

The organization leads a statewide initiative called **Watch Me Grow (WMG)**, offering free developmental screening tools, trainings, and community support to help families and providers monitor child milestones and development.

While **WMG** has traditionally partnered with childcare providers, family resources centers, and healthcare organizations, **NHFV** is now exploring libraries as a new sector to engage families with children around developmental monitoring.

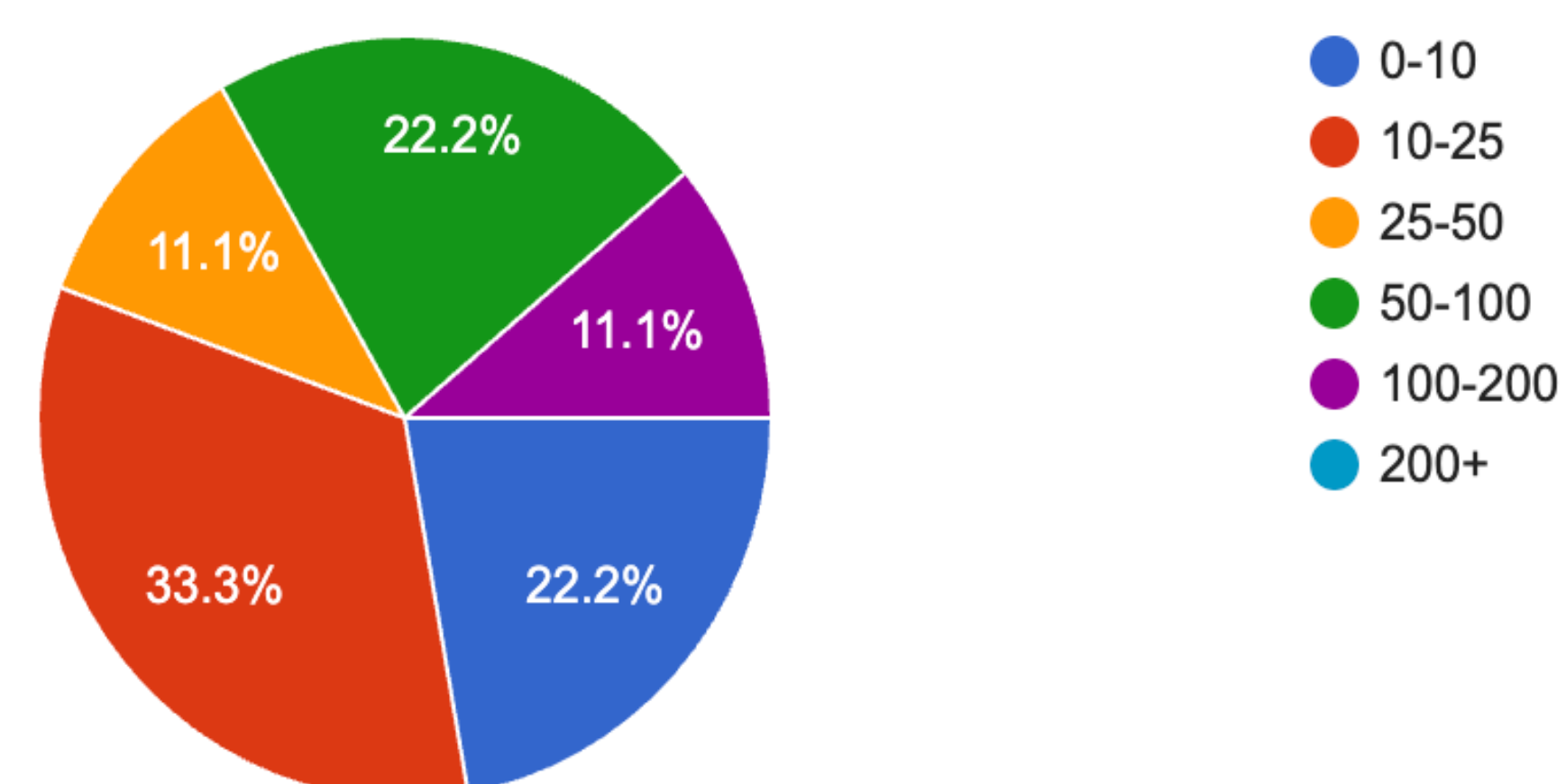
## How We Started:

We mapped libraries across New Hampshire, focusing on Cheshire County, the Western/Souhegan Valley, and the Greater Nashua/Merrimack Valley, and reviewed websites for family resources and events.

We identified libraries offering programs such as story time and crafts, then surveyed them about the families they serve, children's ages, and support needs. This was followed by discussions to determine the most useful materials and assistance.

**Approximately how many children under age six does your library serve a week?**

9 responses

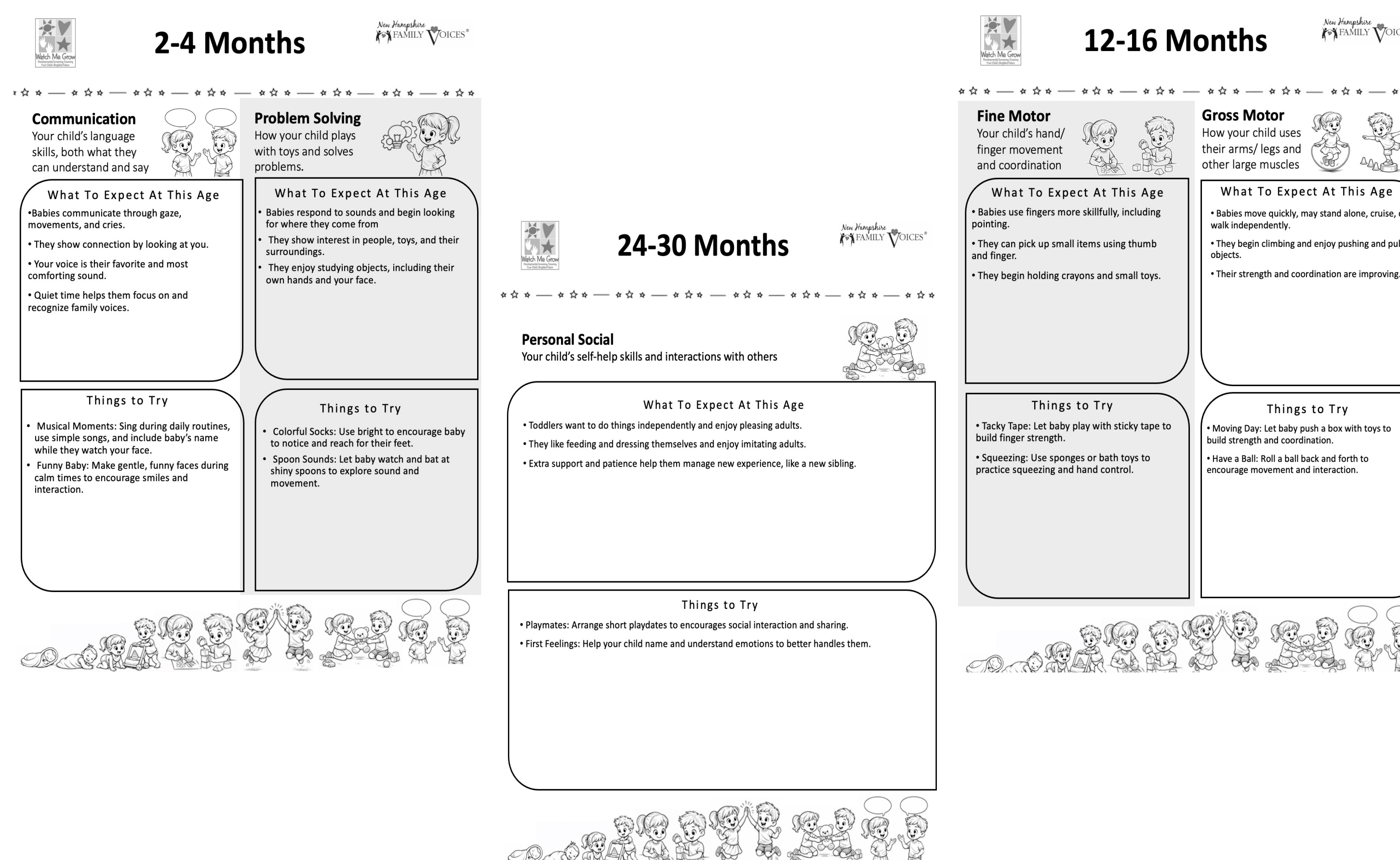


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## What We Did:

We collected information to help libraries better engage families of younger children through programs like story time and other events, using it to tailor resources and support.

We created handouts that outline developmental milestones (0-60 months) across key areas – **Communication, Gross Motor, Fine Motor, Problem Solving, and Personal Social** – with guidance on each back page regarding next steps, questions for doctors, referrals, and NHFV contacts.



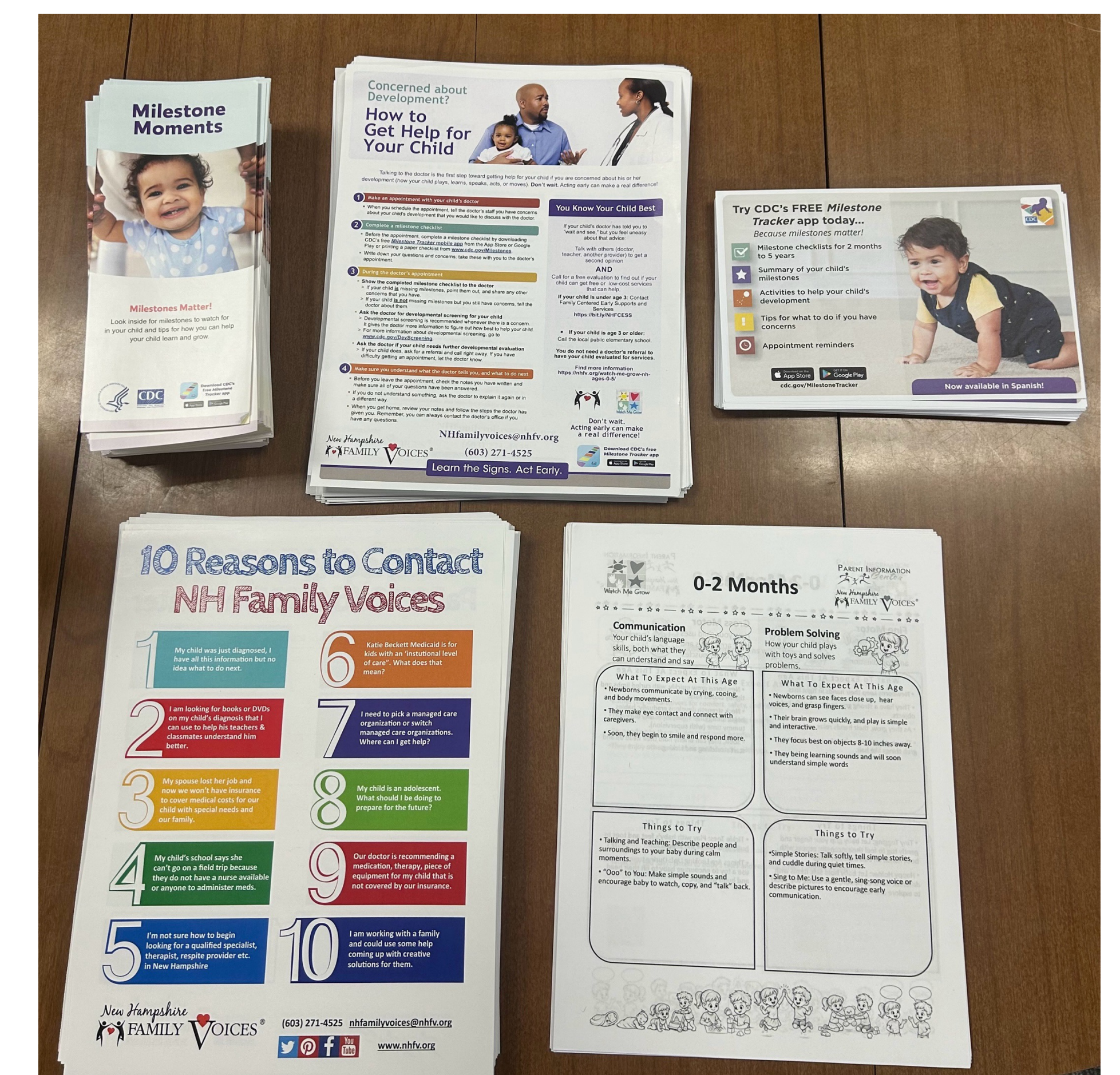
These handouts and other screening materials will be mailed to libraries that expressed interest in receiving them.

Materials consist of:

- CDC "Milestone Moments" brochure.
- Information regarding the CDC's free milestone tracker app (available in Spanish, too).
- Flyer on 10 reasons to contact NHFV.
- Information on talking to your doctor about your child's development.

## Key Takeaways:

- Early detection enables timely help and benefits development.
- Libraries are key community supports for families and children.
- Survey responses – interest in developmental materials.
- Some libraries may be good candidates to launch screening programs.



## Future Steps:

- Send requested materials to additional libraries (mail or delivery).
- Identify libraries interested in hosting and collaborating on developmental screening events.
- Identify libraries for potential pilot screening initiatives.
- Train librarians to conduct screenings and guide families on next steps.

## References:

CDC. (2026, February 17). *Developmental monitoring and screening*. Learn the Signs. Act Early. <https://www.cdc.gov/act-early/about/developmental-monitoring-and-screening.html>

*New Hampshire Family Voices*. (n.d.). <https://nhfv.org/>

*Watch me grow—New Hampshire Family Voices*. (n.d.). <https://staging.nhfv.org/resources/watch-me-grow/>



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