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| **Primitive Reflex:** | **Significance:** |
| MORO/ STARTLE | Peaks in the first month of life and may last up to 6 months old. Occurs if their head suddenly shifts position or are startled by a sudden noise. Legs and head extend while arms jerk up and out (palms up, thumbs flexed) Arms are then brought together, hands clench into fists and the infant cries. This reflex may have helped infants cling to the mother while being carried around and if LOB occurs, can cling onto mother. |
| ATNR | “Fencing posture” present at 1 month of age and integrates around 4 months of age. When infants head is turned to the side, the arm on that side will straighten, and the opposite arm will bend (can be subtle). This prepares the infant for voluntary reaching and is a precursor to hand/eye coordination. |
| STNR | Normally develops around 6-9 months and integrates around 12 months. As child’s head flexes forward, the back of their neck extends and UE contract as LE extend. (neck flexes backwards, the opposite will also occur, LE contract, UE extend) Aids the child in pushing up on their hands and knees. |
| TLR | Found in newborns, the infant will tilt their head back, causing their back to stiffen and arch backwards, legs straighten, stiffen and push together. The toes point and the arms bend at the elbows and wrist, and hands become fisted or fingers curl. This reflex is active during the birthing process, and is the opposite of the STNR. |
| GALANT | Present at birth and fades between 4-6 months. When the skin along the side of the infants back is stroked, the infant will swing towards the side that was stroked. |
| PALMER | “Grasp Reflex” Appears at birth and persists until 5-6 months of age. When an object is placed in the infant’s hand and strokes their palm, the fingers will close, and they will grasp. |
| PLANTAR | Involves plantar flexion of the foot, in which toes move away from the shin and curls down. An abnormal reflex present in adults, “Babinski sign” occurs when UMN control over flexion reflex circuit is interrupted, and foot dorsiflexes, and big toes curl up. Normal to occur in babies under 1 year. |
| POSITIVE SUPPORT REFLEX | This reflex enables infants to stand and step. Infants are born with this reflex, enabling the muscles of their legs to contract in a straight standing position when the balls of their feet contact a solid surface. This reflex usually integrates at 6 months of age. This reflex aids in the posture and development of weight acceptance in standing. |
| WALKING | “Stepping reflex” This is present at birth, as the infant’s soles of their feet touch a flat surface, they will attempt to walk by placing one foot in front of the other. This reflex usually integrates around 5-6 months as the baby starts attempting to walk. |