

## CALCULATING CHRONOLOGICAL AGE

Calculating Chronological Age. To obtain accurate DIAL-4 results, the coordinator must determine the child's age to the month. Calculating chronological age is done in the box on the front cover of the record form. To obtain the chronological age, the coordinator subtracts the child's birth date (obtained from the parent) from the date of the screening.

When calculating chronological age, **do not round 15 or more days to the next (higher) month**. Always disregard or drop the extra days. If the norms are to be meaningful, these rules must be followed precisely because they were used in standardizing the DIAL-4. Always check and verify your calculations.

**Figure 4.2** shows examples of chronological age calculations.

1. The top example does not require "borrowing" of years or months. The child's chronological age is 3-3.
2. In the middle example, 1 month (30 days) must be borrowed to complete subtraction of the number of days. In the resulting chronological age, the days are disregarded. The child's chronological age is 3-4.
3. The bottom example shows borrowing across year, month, and day. First, 1 month (30 days) is borrowed; it is added to the day column and subtracted from the month column changing the number of months from 6 to 5. Then, 1 year (12 months) is borrowed from the year column, it is added to the month column (changing the number of months from 5 to 17) and subtracted from the year column. In the resulting chronological age, again the days are disregarded. The child's chronological age is 5-6.

To assist the flow of the screening process, calculations of chronological age should be performed prior to the day of screening when possible, using the actual screening date. The DIAL-4 coordinator can calculate chronological ages as part of the preparation of registration materials.

**Figure 4.2**

	YEAR	MONTH	DAY
<b>Screening Date</b>	<u>1998</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>25</u>
<b>Birth Date</b>	<u>1995</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>15</u>
<b>Chronological Age</b>	<u>3</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>10</u>

	YEAR	MONTH	DAY
<b>Screening Date</b>	<u>1998</u>	<u><del>9</del> 8</u>	<u><del>5</del> 35</u>
<b>Birth Date</b>	<u>1995</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>10</u>
<b>Chronological Age</b>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>25</u>

	YEAR	MONTH	DAY
<b>Screening Date</b>	<u><del>1998</del> 97</u>	<u><del>5</del> <del>6</del> 17</u>	<u><del>10</del> 40</u>
<b>Birth Date</b>	<u>1992</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>26</u>
<b>Chronological Age</b>	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>14</u>