

TODDLER DEVELOPMENT

One to Three Years*



Attachment

- The bond you have developed with your child will allow her to become more self-protective and to soothe herself more often (24-36 months).
- Between 16 and 36 months, you may notice that your child uses an object to comfort himself, such as a favorite blanket or stuffed animal. These items help him to cope with being separated from you.
- Your toddler's attached relationship with you will help him to progress in development. You provide a model for his behavior and give him a safe base from which to explore his environment.

Social Development

- Toddler's are self-centered at this stage in their development. As a result, they are unable to share or to acknowledge the feelings of others.
- Your toddler will begin to understand reciprocity as she begins to play with peers (2-3 years).
- By watching you, your toddler is learning socially acceptable behavior (2-3 years).

Cognitive Development

- Your toddler is very interested in learning about the world around him. Reading and talking to him are very important.
- Between 18 months and 3 years, your toddler will begin to understand that there are consequences for her bad behavior.
- Your toddler is now able to develop plans for what he wants to do. He can remember his plan, explore the kitchen cabinets, and will persist in trying to accomplish his goals.

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Language and Communication

- From 12-18 months, you will notice that your toddler is gradually gaining new language skills. After this, you may notice a burst in her language development because she has a growing wish to communicate her experiences with you.
- Between 18 and 24 months, your toddler will begin speaking in two or three word sentences.
- You may notice that your toddler begins asking questions, telling about his experiences, or talking to himself between 2 and 3 years of age.
- Although your toddler's language skills are rapidly advancing, she still has many limitations. This will likely be a source of frustration and angry behavior from her when she is not able to communicate what she wants to say.

Play

- Between 1 and 2 years of age, your toddler's play will be characterized by exploring the properties and functions of objects.
- You may notice that in play, your toddler often pretends to be involved in ordinary activities such as pretending to eat or pretending to be a mother.
- By 16 months, your toddler is capable of symbolic play. This means that he is able to pretend that a broom is a horse.
- When toddlers cannot express themselves in words, they express themselves in play.

RESOURCES FOR PARENTS OF INFANTS AND TODDLERS

Websites

<http://www.Babyparenting.about.com>

<http://www.keepkidshealthy.com> - A pediatrician's guide to keeping your baby healthy

<http://www.thebabycorner.com>

Book

The Magic Years by Selma Fraiberg

*Davies, D. (1999). *Child development: A practitioner's guide*. New York: Guilford.

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