

## 18 Months to 3 Years: Toddlers and Two-Year-Olds

[ En Español ]

<b>I Learn Who I Am</b>	
<b>Sometimes, I feel powerful. But independence can be scary.</b>	I count on you to set clear and consistent limits that keep me safe. When I test limits, I am learning who I am and how I should behave. I am not trying to "get you" even though it may feel that way at times.
<b>I feel good about myself and where I come from when my culture is reflected in my child care setting.</b>	I feel I belong when you speak to me in my home language. I feel proud when I see pictures of my family and other people like me hanging on the wall. I feel safe when I see adults who care about me working together.
<b>I sense how you feel about me. Your feelings help shape how I feel about me.</b>	When you respect me, I respect myself. I know when you think I am good or bad, pretty or ugly and smart or dumb. I tune in carefully to your tone and words when you talk about me. Please don't talk about me as if I can't understand.
<b>Sometimes I want to be big. Sometimes I want to be a baby again. And sometimes I want to be both at the same time. This is one of the reasons why my behavior is sometimes hard for you to understand. I don't understand it myself.</b>	Sometimes I will walk. Other times I want a ride in the stroller. Sometimes I insist on doing things my way. Other times I want you to do things for me. Sometimes I push you away. Other times I want you to hold me close. It's O.K. - I still love you.
<b>I am learning more self-control.</b>	I understand more often what you expect of me. Sometimes I can stop myself from doing things I shouldn't. Sometimes I can't. I learn to control my behavior best when you give me only a few simple, clear rules to

	follow and are there to help me in case I forget them.
<b>I Learn About My Feelings</b>	
<b>My feelings can be very strong.</b>	I feel proud of things I make and do. I can get very frustrated and angry. I may hit, push or bite to express myself. I may be afraid of the dark, monsters and people in masks or costumes.
<b>I am learning to control my feelings.</b>	I am learning to use words to express my feelings. I sometimes practice how to express my feelings when I play. You show me how to treat others by the way you treat others.
<b>I know you have feelings too.</b>	I may rub your back to comfort you or pat your cheek. I learn how to care for others by the way you care for me. I sense when you are happy and truly there for me. It makes me feel good. I can tell when you are very sad, scared or upset. Sometimes it makes me feel sad, scared and upset too!
<b>I Learn About People, Objects and How Things Work</b>	
<b>I am more aware of other children.</b>	I am aware when other children are my age and sex. I am aware of skin color and may begin to be aware of physical differences. I can tell who is missing from the group when I see who is present.
<b>I like to play together with other children.</b>	I may pretend we are going to work or cooking dinner. I explore our environment with them, going over couches or under tables.

	I build block towers with them.
<b>I am beginning to be aware of other children's rights.</b>	I learn I don't always get my way. Sometimes I can control myself when things don't go my way. Sometimes I can't. I am learning to take turns. Sometimes I share. Sometimes it's just too hard.
<b>I am becoming aware of how you respond to my actions.</b>	I know when you are pleased about what I do. I know when you are upset with me.
<b>I learn about how the world works.</b>	I may be able to put toys in groups, such as putting all of the toys with wheels together. I can find a familiar toy in a bag, even when I can't see it.
<b>I Learn to Move and Do</b>	
<b>I can do many new things with my fingers and hands.</b>	I turn the pages of a book. I scribble with a crayon or marker and may be able to draw shapes, like circles. I pound and squeeze clay. Sometimes I make shapes with a cookie cutter. I can thread beads with large holes. I am learning to use scissors.
<b>I move in new ways.</b>	I kick and throw a ball. I stand on one foot. I am learning to stand and walk on tiptoes. I may be able to walk upstairs putting one foot on each step.
<b>I can handle many everyday routines by myself.</b>	I am learning to eat with a spoon and fork though sometimes I use my fingers. I can dress myself in simple clothes. I can pour milk on my cereal.
<b>I Learn to Communicate and Relate</b>	

<p><b>I have many things to tell you.</b></p>	<p>I may know up to 200 words in my home language and sometimes in a second language. I can put them together in sentences.</p> <p>I can tell you about things that happened yesterday and about things that will happen tomorrow.</p> <p>I may get frustrated when I have trouble expressing myself. Then I need you to listen patiently. It may help me if you put into words what you think I am trying to say.</p>
<p><b>I like you to read and tell me stories.</b></p>	<p>I especially enjoy stories that are about something I know.</p> <p>Sometimes I may listen for a long time. Other times I may listen for just a little while. I like it when you know the difference.</p> <p>I like to join in when you tell a story.</p> <p>Sometimes I like to "read" or tell you a story too.</p>
<p><b>I play with words.</b></p>	<p>I like songs, fingerplays and games with nonsense words.</p> <p>My friends and I talk together as we act out scenes about serving dinner, driving a car or building a house.</p> <p>Sometimes I use an object as if it were something else. For example, I might use a block for a phone.</p>

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