

8 to 18 Months: Explorers

[En Español]

I Learn Who I Am	
How I feel about myself depends on how you care for me and play with me.	<p>I respect myself when I sense that you are really listening to me.</p> <p>I feel competent when you invite me to help you.</p> <p>I feel proud of what I can do, and your praise makes me feel even better.</p> <p>I feel confident in my abilities when you let me try new things.</p>
I am showing you that my sense of self is growing stronger when I am assertive.	<p>I sometimes insist on doing things my way.</p> <p>When I say, "No!" it often means I am an individual.</p> <p>I may tell you what to do. I may say, "Sit there!"</p>
I am learning language about me.	<p>I know my own name.</p> <p>I can point to and tell you the names of one or more parts of my body.</p> <p>I begin to use "me," "I" and "mine."</p>
I Learn About My Feelings	
My feelings can be very strong.	<p>I laugh and may shriek with joy when I am happy and we are having fun.</p> <p>I can be angry or frustrated and show it by saying "No!" or "Mine!"</p> <p>I may sometimes hit, push or bite because I'm angry or frustrated.</p>
I care deeply about you.	<p>I may look independent sometimes, but don't let that fool you.</p> <p>I may smile, hug you, run into your arms or lean against you to show my affection.</p> <p>When I play, I need you to watch what I do.</p> <p>I may try to follow you or cling when you get ready to leave.</p> <p>I may get frightened when you disappear from my sight. I know now when you're gone, and it frightens me.</p>
Knowing when you will return makes me feel better and helps me learn about time.	<p>I am slowly learning that when those I love leave, they will return.</p> <p>I am learning about time and understand when you say, "I'm coming back after your nap and snack."</p> <p>A consistent daily schedule helps me know when things will happen.</p>

I Learn About People, Objects and How Things Work	
I am learning about choice and choices.	I have favorite toys and favorite foods. I like to choose what to wear.
I like to see and be with other children my age or a little older.	I have fun making silly faces and noises with other children. I may play out simple scenes with others such as, caring for dolls, riding in a train or talking on the phone. I do not know yet how to share but I learn through supervised play with others. You can help us play together peacefully by providing duplicates of our favorite toys.
I want to be like you.	I learn how to relate to other people by watching how you act with me, our family and our friends. I imitate things you do like petting the dog, pushing a vacuum cleaner or getting ready for work. I feel proud and confident when you let me help you with your "real work," like, scrubbing the carrots.
I learn about how the world works.	I am very interested in how the world works. I may go around a sofa when chasing a ball, knowing that it will come out the other side. If my music box winds down, I may try to find a way to start it again. I may use a stick or another object to reach a toy.
I Learn to Move and Do	
I am learning to do new things with my fingers and hands.	I can make marks on paper with crayons and markers. I can stack and line up blocks. I can feed myself with my fingers. I can use a spoon and can drink from a cup.
I am learning to move in new ways.	I can sit in a chair. I can pull myself up and stand by holding onto furniture. I learn to walk, first with help and then alone. Sometimes I still like to crawl. I begin dressing and undressing myself. I can push my foot into my shoe and my arm into my sleeve. I learn to walk forward, take a few steps backwards and try to climb stairs.
I Learn To Communicate and Relate	

<p>I communicate through my expressions and actions.</p>	<p>I look you in the eye to get your attention and express feelings. I point to let you know what I want. I point to pictures of interesting objects, animals and people in books. I hope you will tell me about them. I may hit, kick or bite when I get too frustrated or angry. I need you to help me learn how to express these feelings in acceptable ways.</p>
<p>I communicate using sounds and words.</p>	<p>I create long babble sentences. I use sounds other than crying to get your help. I may be able to say 2 to 10 or more words clearly.</p>
<p>I understand more than you may think much more than the words I can say.</p>	<p>I listen to you and watch you because I understand more than just words. I learn to look at a ball when you say "ball" in my home language. I can tell whether you're happy or upset from the tone of your voice and how much tension I feel in your body when you hold me.</p>

[[Birth to 8 Months](#)] [[8 to 18 Months](#)] [[18 Months to 3 Years](#)]

[[RETURN TO HOMEPAGE](#)]