

How Your Toddler/Preschooler Grows

Each child develops and matures at his or her own rate. We offer this list only to give some general guideposts along the way. Do not be concerned if your child is not exhibiting every characteristic listed for that particular age. Development tends to even out as the child grows older. This is a list of some of the things you might see your child do as he or she passes through childhood.

Your one-year-old...

- feeds self with fingers
- points with index finger
- tries to dress or undress self
- is developing a sense of humor
- is learning to walk, but may prefer to crawl
- listens intently to words; may try to repeat
- likes to pick up things and drop them
- trusts familiar people; afraid of strangers
- likes single, repetitive, rhythmically accentuated sounds

Your two-year-old...

- dawdles a lot
- runs without falling
- turns the pages of a book
- enjoys rough and tumble play
- likes to imitate parent doing housework walks up and down stairs without help
- is very self-centered; says "mine" frequently
- vocabulary increasing; uses mainly nouns and verbs
- may have temper tantrums and show hostility toward other children

Your eighteen-month-old...

- understands language
- begins to talk in sentences
- has vocabulary of about ten words
- is fearful of sudden changes
- can pull a wheel toy while walking
- may suddenly become very dependent again
- has gained at least partial command of legs
- can go down stairs unassisted, either backwards or on bottom
- usually content in self absorbed, spontaneous play
- begins to make elementary distinctions between "you" and "me"

Your three-year-old...

- will share toys
- can hop and jump
- is willing to wait his/her turn
- wants to do things by self
- wants attention and approval
- enjoys playing "pretend" games
- gets over tantrums more quickly
- starts to express feelings verbally
- is interested in finer manipulations of play materials
- becomes increasingly interested in playing with other children

Your four-year-old...

- may have growing fears
- asks a lot of questions
- wants to finish jobs started
- enjoys being silly with friends
- is getting good at throwing a ball
- can cut with blunt scissors and lace shoes
- likes to assert self; sometimes is boastful and bossy
- needs first-hand experiences in touching, tasting, seeing, etc.