



Toddler Ages and Stages

NOTE: These are only guidelines. Some toddlers go through these stages at slightly different ages.

Physical	• Physically active and busy • Begins to walk with skill; runs well as older toddler • Feeds self with hands, then with small spoon • Picks up small objects with thumb and forefinger • Washes and dries own hands (with help reaching the sink) • Starts potty training around two years (age varies with each child) • Pulls zippers, turns doorknobs, and stacks blocks • Screws lids on containers; draws vertical lines and circles
Emotional	• Common traits at various ages in this stage: • 18 months: defiant • 2 years: affectionate • 2 ½ years: overwhelmed, frustrated, angry • 3 years: happy, eager to help • 3 ½ years: bothered by fears
Intellectual	• Begins talking, using about 50 words by two years old • Memory is fairly good by two years • Inquisitive; asks a lot of questions; many “why” questions • Has basic problem-solving skills; learns through trial and error • Enjoys creative play where imagination is used • Attention span grows from one to three years • Builds with blocks
Social	• Imitates adult activities (i.e., talking on the phone, brushing hair) • Wants to dress self, but still needs help • Drinks from a cup • Plays independently along side other children; rarely shares and plays <i>with</i> other children (parallel play)