

Toddler Milestones

Cognitive Development

1. Foundations for Math

A. Identifies basic shapes

1. Fits containers and lids of different shapes and sizes together, such as pots and pans
2. Fits shapes into shape box
3. Fits circle, square or triangle shape in a one piece puzzle
4. Finds a circle, square or rectangle the same as one they are shown

B. Sorts and matches objects

1. Sorts one type of item from a group, such as socks from other laundry or spoons from other silverware
2. Matches like objects
3. Sorts big and little objects
4. Matches an object to its picture
5. Sorts objects by color *or* shape
6. Sorts objects by color *and* shape

C. Shows awareness of number concepts

1. Says “all gone” when her cup is empty
2. Says “more” when he wants more to eat
3. Says number words in songs and finger-plays
4. Places objects in one-to-one correspondence (a plastic egg in each section of the egg carton)
5. Repeats number words after an adult
6. Chooses “just one” when asked
7. Begins to use number words
8. Notices when someone has “more” than another
9. Uses 1-1 correspondence to see if there are as many blankets as babies

D. Explores measurement concepts

1. Pours and fills different size containers
2. Explores the concept of size by trying to fit one object into another
3. Stacks objects on top of each other
4. Nests a smaller cup into a larger one
5. Uses a smaller cup to fill a larger one
6. Begins to notice when it is “time” to do something (time to eat lunch after outside play)

7. Stacks and nests objects by size
8. Compares objects by size

E. Uses logical reasoning and mathematical thinking

1. Works simple 1 piece puzzle
2. Complete a puzzle with a few connecting pieces
3. Finds completely hidden objects after seeing you hide them under a blanket or behind your back
4. Removes box lid to find a hidden toy
5. Retrieves toys from a container which they dropped through a hole and are not visible.
6. Finds hidden objects
7. Notices when something has been removed from a group of familiar objects
8. Experiments with the way objects balance and fit together

F. Creates patterns

1. Tries to copy a simple pattern of two repeating objects: block, car, block, car, block, car
2. Imitates a simple physical pattern begun by an adult: clap hands, pat knees, clap, pat, clap, pat
3. Duplicates a visual (AB) pattern: red peg, blue peg, red peg, blue peg

2. Foundations for Science

A. Actively explores the environment

1. Uses their senses to discover and examine objects
2. Experiments with different objects to see how they relate to each other
3. Explores cause and effect toys (push button to ring bell)
4. Observes events in nature

B. Describes things in the environment

1. Points to body parts and may name some
2. Names some animals and makes animal sounds
3. Describes characteristics of objects (hot, wet)
4. Finds objects that relate to one another (all vehicles, all food items)

C. Asks questions about the environment

1. Curious about unfamiliar objects and events
2. Uses a questioning tone to ask about something in the environment (points to a butterfly and says "bug?")

D. Uses simple tools

1. Plays with magnifying glasses, tongs, balance scale, etc.

3. Foundations for Social Studies

A. Explores family roles and personal relationships

1. Says names of family members who come into view
2. Seeks physical security from parent or familiar adult
3. Says the name of a family pet
4. Identifies family members in photographs

B. Recognizes obvious individual preferences and differences

1. Shows preference for certain toys
2. Claims ownership of a personal item, such as a favorite “blankie”
3. Notices difference in physical characteristics such as a person wearing glasses or using a wheelchair
4. Shows interest in new things such as a new food or new music
5. Compares self to others: “I have braids and she has a ponytail”

C. Explores community roles and relationships

1. Dresses up with community worker props
2. Acts out the roles of community workers
3. Follows simple rules for community living, such as keeping the classroom clean

D. Concepts of place and location

1. Responds to location words such as “under” and “on top”
2. Looks for a lost object
3. Follows a familiar route- retraces steps to a familiar location