

Toddler Milestones

Emotional and Social Development

1. Personal Relationships with Adults

A. Builds relationships with adults

1. Smiles when greeted by teachers
2. Moves toward teacher for physical contact
3. Seeks out teacher to share an activity
4. Seeks approval or appreciation for accomplishments

B. Shows feelings of security and trust with adults

1. Holds arms up to be picked up or for a hug
2. Returns to a familiar adult for reassurance, comfort or safety
3. Separates from parent to teacher with minimal difficulty

2. Personal Relationship with Peers

A. Builds relationships with peers

1. Joins a few other children participating in an activity with an adult
2. Plays with toys and materials next to other children (parallel play)
3. Tries to imitate other children's actions
4. Physically greets other children
5. Begins to take turns, with guidance from adults
6. Begins to engage in pretend play with peers
7. Knows names of most children in the class

B. Shows sensitivity to the feelings of others

1. Imitates feelings displayed by other children such as laughing or crying
2. Begins to use words to describe feelings
3. Asks why another child is crying
4. Comforts a child in distress

3. Self-Awareness

A. Demonstrates self-concept (awareness of self as an individual)

1. Expresses preferences for favorite foods or activities
2. Responds to own name
3. Recognizes own image in mirror
4. Points to self in a group photo
5. Identifies things that belong to them

6. Points to different body parts and identifies them
7. Shows individuality by making a choice different from other children
8. Uses own name when referring to self
9. Identifies self as a boy or girl
10. Likes to be noticed and says things like “watch me”
11. Tells full name

B. Demonstrates self-confidence (aware of own abilities)

1. Smiles or claps when successful with a task
2. Tries to do some things for himself that an adult is trying to do for him
3. Looks for approval from adults
4. Talks about things she does well

4. Self-Control

A. Shows impulse control (regulates own emotions)

1. Sits for a short time with an adult
2. Comes when her name is called
3. Calms their anger with the assistance of an adult
4. Modifies inappropriate behavior with teacher direction
5. Responds to a warning that something is unsafe
6. Uses words to express feelings of happiness, sadness, anger

B. Follows routines and rules in a group setting

1. Sits and listens in a group for a short period
2. Follows the adult’s lead in a classroom activity or routine
3. Makes choices to participate in one activity or another
4. Participates with others in group activities
5. Follows simple classroom rules
6. Takes turns in some activities with adult assistance
7. Shares part or all of something with a teacher or another child

5. Self-Expression

A. Expresses creativity through art and music

1. Paints with finger-paint
2. Scribbles- makes squiggles and dots
3. Plays with playdo
4. Plays simple musical instruments
5. Sings some simple songs

B. Expresses creativity through dramatic play

1. Begins to engage in pretend play (talks on phone, pretends to feed baby)
2. Imitates adult behaviors
3. Uses one object to represent something else