

your child: from 1 1/2 to 2 years

From Early Toddler to the Terrific Twos: The Most Important Developmental Achievements

SOCIAL

Typically Can:

- Play alongside another child with enjoyment
- At times, get frustrated and bite, hit or pull hair
- Be aware of gender differences
- Recognize self and family in photographs

Emerging Skills:

- Share a piece of food
- Take turns in a song or game
- Begin to be toilet trained



LANGUAGE

Typically Can:

- Point to at least one body part
- Name some pictures in a book
- Use 2 word sentences
- Follow simple directions

Emerging Skills:

- Understands concepts such as "big, little, in, on"
- Uses personal pronouns such as "mine", "me", "you"
- Express feelings verbally (e.g., "I'm mad")
- Use size words correctly (e.g., big, little)

GROSS MOTOR

Typically Can:

- Run without falling
- Walk backwards & sideways
- Climb over furniture
- Walk upstairs alternating feet
- Walk along a line
- Nest jars and squares

Emerging Skills:

- Kick a ball
- Walk a few steps on tiptoe
- Throw & retrieve objects
- Jump in place, both feet off the floor
- Peddle a tricycle

COGNITIVE

Typically Can:

- Understand "today" but not "yesterday"
- Name parts of the body
- Engage in pretend play with others

Emerging Skills:

- Count up to 5
- Sort and match objects
- Understand concept of one

EMOTIONAL

Typically Can:

- Be away from parents for a short time without being too upset
- Show fears & be able to be settled down
- Demand own way for much of the time
- Be attached to cuddly or favourite toy
- Be unhappy about changes in routine

Emerging Skills:

- Learn to listen and follow simple directions
- Name several emotions and identify them in others

FINE MOTOR

Typically Can:

- Take lids off jars
- Draw vertical line
- Build tower of 5 blocks
- Complete simple inset puzzle

Emerging Skills:

- Clutch pencil with whole hand
- Hold brush and paint on paper
- Use small scissors to cut
- String beads
- Imitate folding paper in half

Adapted from INVEST in KIDS
Language Portion by North Words

For More Information
Contact Your Local Northwestern Health Unit Office
or Healthy Babies Healthy Children
Toll Free at 1-800-465-4377