



Building Blocks to Brighter Futures

Resources to Help Make Sure All Our Kids are "AOK"

Social and Emotional Development of the Toddler

12 to 18 months

What Toddler Does

Is safe and secure in a loving relationship

Says 'mama' and 'dada' and some other words

Reacts to change in daily routine



What Parents Can Do

- Talk, listen and respond to your toddler
- Read, sing songs & play with your toddler
- Use words for feelings: happy, sad, mad
- Use words to tell the toddler what comes next

18 to 24 months

What Toddler Does

Is curious and likes to explore

Laughs out loud

Is loving toward others

Plays beside other children

Protests and says "No"

Enjoys books, stories and songs

What Parents Can Do

- Celebrate what the toddler does
- Share in toddlers laughter
- Encourage curiosity
- Set limits that are firm, fair and consistent





24 to 30 months

What Toddler Does

Uses words to communicate

Uses "pretend" play

Is playful with others

Tries to please parents



What Parents Can Do

- Encourage imaginary play
- Read to toddler every day
- Encourage and praise your toddler
- Praise good behaviors
- Ignore bad behaviors
- Play simple games with your toddler

30 to 36 months

What Toddler Does

Can play independently

Separates easily from
caregivers in familiar places

Begins to share with others

Shows feelings for others

Expresses many feelings

What Parents Can Do

- Help toddler to separate without difficulty
- Help your toddler to share
- Use many words for feelings
- Listen and respond to the toddler's feelings
- Encourage pretend play



For more information, please visit the Kane County Health Department's website at kanehealth.com/aok.htm or call 630-208-3801



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