



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

