

Guide to Infant and Toddler Development



I. Sense of Self

Expressing initiative

- Child turns toward or away from a person or object.
- Child initiates or avoids contact with a person or object.
- Child moves with persistence until reaching a chosen person or object.
- Child says “No!”
- Child expresses a choice or intention in words.

Distinguishing self from others

- Child puts own fingers or thumb into own mouth.
- Child smiles at self in mirror.
- Child recognizes own body parts.
- Child says an object is “mine.”
- Child spontaneously identifies self in a mirror or photograph.

Solving problems

- Child moves eyes, head, or hand toward desired object or person.
- Child repeats an action to make something happen again.
- Child moves self or object to find an object (or person) that has disappeared from sight.
- Child makes varied attempts to solve a problem.
- Child verbally identifies a problem before attempting to solve it.

Developing self-help skills

- Child cries to express a need.
- Child assists in own feeding, diapering, or dressing by holding an object.
- Child feeds self finger foods or drinks from a cup.
- Child attempts a simple self-help task alone, such as putting an arm in a sleeve, opening a door, or turning on a faucet.
- Child accomplishes some or all parts of a complex self-help task, such as hand washing, using the toilet or potty, or dressing.



II. Social Relations

Forming an attachment to a primary caregiver

- Child snuggles or cuddles in the primary caregiver's arms.
- Child looks at, smiles at, vocalizes, or makes faces at the primary caregiver.
- Child seeks physical contact with the primary caregiver.
- Child initiates playful give-and-take with the primary caregiver.
- Child seeks out the primary caregiver to communicate needs and desires in words.

Relating to unfamiliar adults

- Child looks away from an unfamiliar adult.
- In the presence of a primary caregiver, child responds to the sounds or gestures of an unfamiliar adult.
- Child initiates contact with an unfamiliar adult.
- Child brings an object to an unfamiliar adult.
- Child converses with an unfamiliar adult.

Relating to another child

- Child watches another child.
- Child babbles or gestures to another child.
- Child spontaneously brings an object or shows affection to another child.
- Child uses another child's name.
- Child makes a comment to another child.