



Links to Learning

APRIL TODDLERS

Links to Home: Shared Activities for Parents & Children

As your toddler's vocabulary continues to develop, she will begin to describe the size of objects in more detail using words such as big and small.

Here are some activities to promote this skill with your child:

- Take a walk with your child to look at leaves. Talk about their size, shape and where you found them.
- As you are driving in the car, point to objects out the window, such as a tree, dog or school bus. Ask your child to describe the size of each item.
- Set up a bird feeder outside a window that your child can easily see. Let your child help fill it with birdseed. As the birds come to eat, talk about them. What color are they? Are they big or small? What are they doing?



How your child will be developing and learning during this stage.



Links to Learning

Your child's teacher will take a purposeful approach to model, nurture and provide opportunities for growth in these Links to Learning skill areas.

12-16 Months

📖 Language and Literacy	123 Mathematics
Communication	Geometry and Relationships
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Builds vocabulary Imitates new words Uses baby sign language and other gestures to communicate Imitates animal sounds Points to and names familiar objects Points to facial features when named Responds to simple one-step directions Responds to simple questions with 'yes' or 'no' 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Remembers where things are kept Nests or stacks three rings Demonstrates an understanding of 'up' & 'down'
Literacy	Problem Solving and Reasoning
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enjoys being read to Looks at picture books independently Points to and names familiar objects in books Gives a book to an adult to read Turns pages in book 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Retrieves a ball that has rolled out of sight Handles three objects by setting one object aside Matches lids with appropriate containers
🏃 Wellness	🎵 Creative Expression
Gross Motor Skills and Balance	Music and Musicians
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Walks with increased stability Crawls up stairs Pushes and pulls toys while walking Throws a ball forward Sits in a child-sized chair 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Listens intently to music and tries to sing songs Bobs or rocks body in response to music Plays simple musical instruments
Fine Motor Skills	Art and Artists
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Puts items into a container Turns over small containers to find objects Pushes button to produce an effect (for example, pop-up toy) Stacks a tower of two to three blocks Pulls apart pop beads Points with index finger 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Experiments with thick crayons and markers Scribbles on paper using whole-arm movement Experiments with finger paint
Health, Safety and Nutrition	Dramatic Play
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Eats a variety of table foods Stops in response to "no" Sleeps on a toddler-sized cot 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Imitates familiar adult behavior, particularly "helper" and "clean-up" behaviors Pretends to be familiar animals
	👤 Social-Emotional
	Self-Help Skills
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Helps to dress and undress self Feeds self independently with hands Attempts to feed self with spoon Points to self when named Takes off socks and shoes
	Social Interaction
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assists in picking up toys Offers a toy when prompted Engages in parallel play Engages in multi-sensory activities

How your child will be developing and learning during this stage.



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16-20 Months

🗨️ Language and Literacy	🎵 Creative Expression
Communication	Music and Musicians
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Builds vocabulary • Imitates new words • Uses newly acquired vocabulary • Uses sign language and other gestures to communicate • Refers to self by name • Indicates knowledge of some friends' names verbally or by pointing • Names some common animals • Names some simple facial features • Responds to simple one-step directions • Responds to simple questions with 'yes,' 'no,' or simple responses 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dances in response to music • Stands with feet apart; sways side to side to music • Listens intently to music • Tries to sing songs • Plays simple musical instruments
Literacy	Art and Artists
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Turns familiar pictures right side up • Shows sustained interest in pictures • Pretends to read a book • Shows a preference for a familiar book • Listens to a 5-minute story with pictures • Responds to specific words in stories by showing what was named • Turns pages in book 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Experiments with thick crayons and markers • Scribbles on paper using whole-arm movement • Experiments with finger paint • Uses a paintbrush • Engages in multi-sensory art activities
123 Mathematics	Dramatic Play
Numbers and Number Sense	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engages in dress-up activities • Mimics transportation noises and behaviors
Geometry and Relationships	👤 Social-Emotional
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Begins to understand the number concept of one • Repeats numbers 1-5 	Self-Help Skills
Problem Solving and Reasoning	Social Interaction
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Points to simple shapes • Points to common colors • Matches a picture of an object to an object • Demonstrates an understanding of 'big' & 'little' 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drinks from an open cup • Feeds self with spoon • Recognizes self in mirror • Shows preferences, likes and dislikes • Retrieves personal items from cubby
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attempts to find out how a toy runs • Attempts to place shaped blocks into correct holes; changes holes if object does not fit 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Briefly shares with others when prompted • Engages in give and take play, such as rolling a ball back and forth • Pays attention to other children

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16-20 Months (contd.)

Wellness

Gross Motor Skills and Balance

- Dumps large containers
- Catches a ball rolled from a short distance
- Walks backwards
- Turns around
- Seats self and maintains balance in a child-sized chair
- Steps on or kicks ball in attempt to engage in kicking behavior

Fine Motor Skills

- Pulls apart and pushes pop beads back together
- Uses a large cup to scoop material
- Manipulates Play-Doh through squeezing and pounding
- Imitates motions of finger play
- Pull up large zippers
- Stacks 3-4 rings on a stick
- Uses hands together to complete fine motor tasks

Health, Safety and Nutrition

- Holds railing going up or down stairs
- Gets a tissue when prompted





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20-24 Months

 Language and Literacy	 Creative Expression
Communication <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Uses two to four word sentences • Asks simple questions • Builds vocabulary • Uses newly acquired vocabulary • Uses sign language and other gestures to communicate • Shows recognition of peers and teachers verbally and/or emotionally • Knows and uses names of some friends & teacher • Responds to simple two-step directions • Responds to questions with simple responses • Uses "me" and "my" to refer to self and possessions 	Music and Musicians <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sings simple songs and claps along with music • Dances in response to music • Plays simple musical instruments
Literacy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Listens to a 5-minute story with pictures • Answers questions about familiar objects and events in books • Looks at picture books independently • Asks to be read to • Fills in words in familiar stories 	Art and Artists <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Experiments with crayons and markers • Imitates vertical crayon stroke • Finger paints with some control • Uses a paintbrush • Engages in multi-sensory art activities
 Mathematics	Dramatic Play <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acts out familiar routines with baby dolls and stuffed animals • Engages in symbolic play, such as calling someone with a pretend banana • Uses dress-up props to become new characters, animals, or people
Numbers and Number Sense	 Social-Emotional
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understands the number concept of one • Begins to understand the number concept of two • Repeats numbers 1-10 • Tells which is one and which is many 	Self-Help Skills
Geometry and Relationships	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recognizes self in photographs • Engages in clean-up routines including clearing spot after eating • Feeds self with spoon and fork • Indicates need for diaper change • Washes hands with minimal support • Attempts to put on shoes • Drinks small amounts of liquid from an open cup
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Names simple shapes and common colors • Matches a picture of an object to an object • Sorts by color and begins to sort by size 	Social Interaction
Problem Solving and Reasoning <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Uses size words to describe an object, such as big or little • Completes 1-3 piece puzzles through trial & error • Uses toys for intended purpose, including stacking blocks, simple puzzles, and interlocking blocks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engages in close parallel play • Follows classroom routine and schedule with minimal prompting • Attends to and plays with a toy independently for a short span of time • Shows varied feelings • Says "please" <p style="text-align: right;">(continued on the back)</p>



20-24 Months (contd.)

Wellness

Gross Motor Skills and Balance

- Jumps in place with two feet
- Runs
- Climbs steps independently
- Throws a ball forward
- Sits upright on floor with legs crisscrossed
- Fills and dumps containers

Fine Motor Skills

- Puts large pegs in a peg board
- Places blocks in a row
- Strings large beads
- Turns large knobs
- Builds a tower of 4 or more blocks
- Lifts lids from large containers

Health, Safety and Nutrition

- Climbs playground stairs holding the railing
- Sits and stands from child-sized chair without falling