

Your 22 to 36 month old...

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

Making Relationships: Your child will be interested in playing with others now and may even be making friendships. They will show concern and affection for those who are special to them. To give children an opportunity to develop these skills they need to be around other children and are learning how to interact by watching adults.

Self-confidence and Self-awareness: Your child is aware of their own likes and dislikes and will be able to communicate these. It is important that your child's preferences and choices are valued. Encouraging them to talk about their decisions will allow them to deepen their awareness of themselves.

Managing Feelings and Behaviour: Your child might identify their feelings and they might be able to control their own behaviour. They will also be very aware of the feelings and behaviours of others and will show this by comforting others and knowing that some actions can hurt themselves or friends. Children will develop their understanding of feelings and behaviours through imaginative play so you can play alongside them and use the opportunity to talk about emotions and how to treat others.

Communication and Language

Listening and Attention: Now that their understanding of the world has developed more, your child will turn to look at the door when somebody knocks or to the telephone when it rings. They will enjoy listening to stories, songs and rhymes. Using props like puppets and soft toys to retell stories and changing your tone as you read will help your child stay focused. Use their name to help them change their attention focus from what they are doing to listening to you.

Understanding: You can now use 2 step instructions for your child to follow; "Put your toys away and then we will read a book" and they will be able to answer simple questions. Giving your child the opportunity to socialise with other adults and children will allow them to speak about what they think and feel. If your child is finding it difficult to understand phrases and commands, try commentating on what they are doing to allow them to make links between words, sentences and actions.

Speaking: Your child can now use a variety of questions, words and sentences. They will use language to communicate and can hold a conversation- although they will jump from one topic to another. Give children time to think and speak- it's a complicated process that we take for granted! Talk about what interests them and further their development by adding more information when you repeat back to them.

Physical Development

Moving and Handling: Your child can now run safely, squat, climb and kick. They are developing their small hand and wrist movements to be able to hold a crayon with a tripod grip (using 3 fingers) to draw circles and lines. Your child will switch between having lots of energy to needing a rest throughout the day. Give your child as much opportunity as possible to play outside where they have space to explore different movements and encourage them to be independent such as pouring a drink or putting on shoes- these movements will help their hand and wrist muscles develop for future writing.

Health and Self-care: You'll notice your child becoming more independent; helping with dressing, telling you they need the toilet and recognising danger. Although showing a want to be independent, your child will still need your help and encouragement. Take their cues for starting potty training.

Literacy

Reading: You may find that your child is repeating words and phrases from their favourite songs and books. It can be tiresome when your little one asks to read the same story book or sing the same rhyme repeatedly, but try missing out some of the words and encourage them to say them instead. Encouraging children to retell stories when they play will grow their imagination, understanding, story-telling and concentration skills.

Writing: Your child will be exploring how to make individual marks with mark making tools such as crayons, chalks, car wheels or water pistols. Early writing isn't just about putting pencil to paper. In fact, to develop your little one's love of writing, providing as many different ways to make marks as possible, will make it so much more appealing. Praise any effort to make marks and ask your child to tell you what it says.

Mathematics

Numbers: During play, you will hear your child using numbers and may even be saying some numbers in the correct order. They will have an understanding that a number of objects changes when you add more or take some away and will be able to give you a small number of objects from a big group. To further their maths skills, use maths language such as more, less, lots, few, empty, full etc... Keep reading counting books and singing counting rhymes so that your child will hear numbers in the correct sequence order.

Shape, Space and Measure: Your routine will be familiar now and your child will start to use time-words such as before, later and soon. They will begin to notice patterns and shapes in books and toys. Talk to your child about patterns on their clothes, on animals in books and on things found in your home. Look at rectangles, triangles, squares and circles you see around you and encourage them to spot them on walks and when they play.

Expressive Arts and Design

Exploring and using Media and Materials: Your child will be showing their creativity with making music, models and exploring colour. Encouraging different ways to move their body when dancing and different ways to make sounds around the home and garden, will stretch your child's creativity and imagination.

Being Imaginative: Your child's imagination is developing fast and they will be expressing this in their play and by representation, such as drawing a line and saying "that's me!". Join in with your child's pretend play and use different voices and behaviours to encourage storytelling skills. Providing old clothes for fancy dress and puppets will support their creativity!

Understanding the World

People and Communities: Your child will know who is in their family and will start to re-enact the things you do at home when they play imaginatively. They will begin to make friends and know that there are similarities that connects them to these people. Seeing your child play like this is a reminder that they are learning from the adults they see around them; having good attitudes to others and accepting differences will encourage your child to behave in the same way.

The World: Your child will enjoy playing with small world toys like farm sets and doll's houses. Play alongside your child and tell stories as they play to encourage them to this independently in the future.

Technology: Exploring technology will be exciting for your child and they will enjoy working mechanical toys such as friction cars and toys with levers and pulleys. Talk about technology as you use it (torches, cameras, computer keyboards) and encourage your child to help you so they learn how it can be useful in their life too.