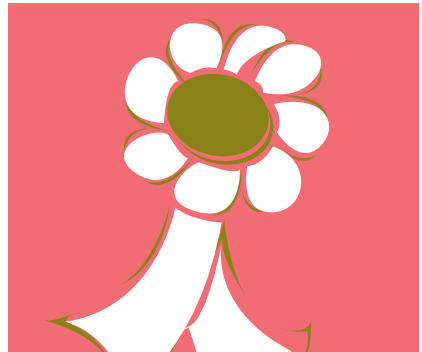




Toddler Boys & Girls

20 Common Skills of Children During Their 2nd Year



Young children are always learning.

They grow and develop at different rates, have different interests, and different experiences. This guide presents some of the skills most children are learning during their 2nd year.

During the 2nd year, a child ...

During 12-18 months, a child ...

1. Uses a variety of sounds in trying to speak

- changes babbling sounds as though trying to say different words
- makes sounds in a rhythm as though singing a song
- uses a very loud voice when excited

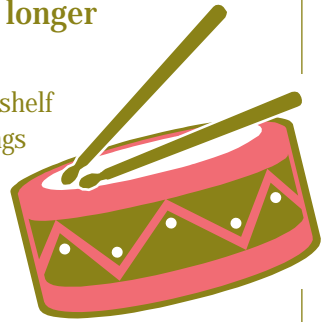
2. Begins to be able to speak

- can say one or two words to ask for things
- says “no” when told to stop doing something
- says “cat” while pointing to a cat in a book
- says “get off” when sister tries to sit on the same chair

no
cat

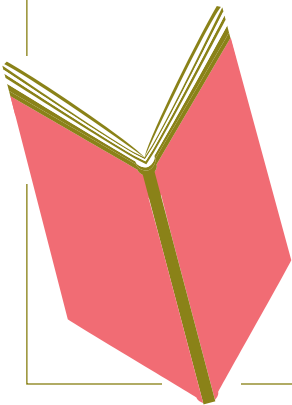
3. Starts to be able to pay attention for longer amounts of time

- takes time to put all three toys back on the shelf
- watches “Barney” on TV and dances and sings with him
- plays hide-and-seek with cousin



4. Enjoys things that are familiar

- wants to have the same book read again and again
- likes to choose the same clothes to wear again
- likes books that repeat verses throughout the book, like “I like green eggs and ham, do you like green eggs and ham?”
- wants to go to the same places to play
- asks to have a hot dog again and again for lunch



5. Makes connections of similar things

- goes and gets a stuffed Mickey Mouse when Mickey is on TV
- enjoys watching herself/himself in a mirror

6. Wants to learn as much as possible

- wants to play the game of pointing to her nose, or ear, or toes when asked "Where is your ..."
- likes when dad reads a story and talks about the lion's big teeth and how it roars in the jungle
- points to pictures in the book so that mom will explain more about them

7. Likes to pretend while playing

- pretends to talk on the telephone like mom does
- rocks a baby doll to sleep
- turns the wheel of the toy pretending to drive the car



8. Enjoys physical affection



- wants to cuddle with mom or dad at nap time
- likes it when Aunt Nancy tickles her feet and tummy
- crawls up on mom's lap while watching a movie
- hugs his big brother



9. Gains more physical abilities

- can walk and run
- can crawl up stairs
- can scribble



10. Begins to have some fears

- may begin to be afraid to take a bath
- becomes afraid when mom is not in sight
- wants an adult to help with everything
- may not be comfortable with strangers

During 18-24 months, a child ...

11. Knows many words (over 200)

- learns the meaning of new words quickly
- tries to repeat new words mom and dad say
- asks a lot of questions, saying “why?”

*mom
dad*

12. Begins to talk in 2-3 word sentences

- says “mom not go” when mom is putting on her coat
- says “that my bear” about the stuffed animal
- repeats dad’s words when he says “Mary is beautiful.”

that my bear

13. Shows the need to be independent

- does the opposite of what mom says to do
- often has temper tantrums
- decides what to eat and what not to eat

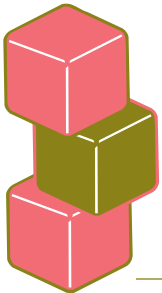
14. Begins to care for self

- tries to get dressed alone
- uses a fork and spoon to eat
- helps mom put the toys in the basket



15. Continues to build physical skills

- can run and kick a ball
- can stack 5 or 6 blocks on top of one another
- can get onto the kitchen chair without help

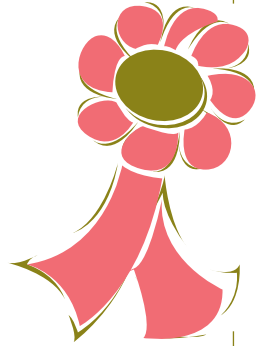


16. Likes stories about familiar things

- enjoys a story about a little boy getting dressed to go to church
- asks to hear the story again about the trip to the park
- pretends to cry when the little girl fell down and got hurt

17. Shows pride in accomplishments

- brings her painting to hang on the refrigerator
- asks mom if she is happy that he could put on his shoes alone
- likes dad to read a familiar story so he can “read” along too



18. Is very self-centered

- plays alone, although other children may be in the same room
- is unhappy when a new baby comes into the home
- wants all of mom’s attention to watch him put together a puzzle

19. Enjoys imitating and doing things with an adult

- as dad reads a story, he “reads” and babbles along with dad
- follows mom through every room of the house trying to “help”
- wants to help to do the shopping at the grocery store

20. Wants to learn about everything

- touches and examines all new objects
- is very curious about what others are doing and why
- watches his big brother build an airplane
- opens many drawers and cupboards

Use this guide to help.

Remember that some children will be able to do all of these things and more. Other children may be able to do many of the things listed but not be able to do others. Use this guide to help you observe your child during this second year. If you have questions about your child, speak to your pediatrician or preschool teacher.

During the 2nd year, a child ...

1. Uses a variety of sounds in trying to speak
2. Begins to be able to speak
3. Starts to be able to pay attention for longer amounts of time
4. Enjoys things that are familiar
5. Makes connections of similar things
6. Wants to learn as much as possible
7. Likes to pretend while playing
8. Enjoys physical affection
9. Gains more physical abilities
10. Begins to have some fears
11. Knows many words (over 200)
12. Begins to talk in 2-3 word sentences
13. Shows the need to be independent
14. Begins to care for self
15. Continues to build physical skills
16. Likes stories about familiar things
17. Shows pride in accomplishments
18. Is very self-centered
19. Enjoys imitating and doing things with an adult
20. Wants to learn about everything

EPI-center prepared this document for use by families and caregivers of children

For more information about EPI-center, visit our web site at www.epi-center.org



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