

18 Months to 3 Years



I LEARN WHO I AM

Sometimes, I feel powerful. But independence can be scary.

- I count on you to set clear and consistent limits that keep me safe.
- When I test limits, I am learning who I am and how I should behave. I am not trying to “get you” even though it may feel that way at times.

I feel good about myself and where I come from when my culture is reflected in my childcare setting.

- I feel I belong when you speak to me in my home language.
- I feel proud when I see pictures of my family and other people like me hanging on the wall.
- I feel safe when I see adults who care about me working together.

I sense how you feel about me. Your feelings help shape how I feel about me.

- When you respect me, I respect myself.
- I know when you think I am good or bad, pretty or ugly and smart or dumb.
- I tune in carefully to your tone and words when you talk about me. Please don't talk about me as if I can't understand.

Sometimes I want to be big. Sometimes I want to be a baby again. And sometimes I want to be both at the same time. This is one of the reasons why my behaviour is sometimes hard for you to understand. I don't understand it myself.

- Sometimes I will walk. Other times I want a ride in the stroller.
 - Sometimes I insist on doing things my way. Other times I want you to do things for me.
 - Sometimes I push you away. Other times I want you to hold me close.
- It's OK – I still love you.

I am learning more self-control.

- I understand more often what you expect of me.
- Sometimes I can stop myself from doing things I shouldn't. Sometimes I can't.
- I learn to control my behaviour best when you give me only a few simple, clear rules to follow and are there to help me in case I forget them.

I LEARN ABOUT MY FEELINGS

My feelings can be very strong.

- I feel proud of things I make and do.
- I can get very frustrated and angry. I may hit, push or bite to express myself.
- I may be afraid of the dark, monsters and people in masks or costumes.

I am learning to control my feelings.

- I am learning to use words to express my feelings.
- I sometimes practice how to express my feelings when I play.
- You show me how to treat others by the way you treat others.

I know you have feelings too.

- I may rub your back to comfort you or pat your cheek. I learn how to care for others by the way you care for me.
- I sense when you are happy and truly there for me. It makes me feel good.
- I can tell when you are very sad, scared or upset. Sometimes it makes me feel sad, scared and upset too!

I LEARN ABOUT PEOPLE, OBJECTS AND HOW THINGS WORK

I am more aware of other children.

- I am aware when other children are my age and sex.
- I am aware of skin colour and may begin to be aware of physical differences.
- I can tell who is missing from the group when I see who is present.

I like to play together with other children.

- I may pretend we are going to work or cooking dinner.
- I explore our environment with them, going over couches or under tables.
- I build block towers with them.

I am beginning to be aware of other children's rights.

- I learn I don't always get my way.
- Sometimes I can control myself when things don't go my way. Sometimes I can't.
- I am learning to take turns.
- Sometimes I share. Sometimes it's just too hard.

I am becoming aware of how you respond to my actions.

- I know when you are pleased about what I do.
- I know when you are upset with me.

I learn about how the world works.

- I may be able to put toys in groups, such as putting all of the toys with wheels together.
- I can find a familiar toy in a bag, even when I can't see it.

I LEARN TO MOVE AND DO

I can do many new things with my fingers and hands.

- I turn the pages of a book.
- I scribble with a crayon or marker and may be able to draw shapes, like circles.
- I pound and squeeze clay. Sometimes I make shapes with a cookie cutter.
- I can thread beads with large holes.
- I am learning to use scissors.

I move in new ways.

- I kick and throw a ball.
- I stand on one foot.
- I am learning to stand and walk on tiptoes.
- I may be able to walk upstairs putting one foot on each step.

I can handle many everyday routines by myself.

- I am learning to eat with a spoon and fork though sometimes I use my fingers.
- I can dress myself in simple clothes.
- I can pour milk on my cereal.

I LEARN TO COMMUNICATE AND RELATE

I have many things to tell you.

- I may know up to 200 words in my home language and sometimes in a second language. I can put them together in sentences.
- I can tell you about things that happened yesterday and about things that will happen tomorrow.
- I may get frustrated when I have trouble expressing myself. Then I need you to listen patiently. It may help me if you put into words what you think I am trying to say.

I like you to read and tell me stories.

- I especially enjoy stories that are about something I know.
- Sometimes I may listen for a long time. Other times I may listen for just a little while- I like it when you know the difference.
- I like to join in when you tell a story.
- Sometimes I like to “read” or tell you a story too.

I play with words.

- I like songs, fingerplays and games with nonsense words.
- My friends and I talk together as we act out scenes about serving dinner, driving a car or building a house.
- Sometimes I use an object as if it were something else. For example, I might use a block for a phone.

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