

8 to 18 Months



I LEARN WHO I AM

How I feel about myself depends on how you care for me and play with me.

- I respect myself when I sense that you are really listening to me.
- I feel competent when you invite me to help you.
- I feel proud of what I can do and your praise makes me feel even better.
- I feel confident in my abilities when you let me try new things.

I am showing you that my sense of self is growing stronger when I am assertive.

- I sometimes insist on doing things my way.
- When I say, “No!” it often means I am an individual.
- I may tell you what to do. I may say, “Sit there!”

I am learning language about me.

- I know my own name.
- I can point to and tell you the names of one or more parts of my body.
- I begin to use “me,” “I” and “mine.”

I LEARN ABOUT MY FEELINGS

My feelings can be very strong.

- I laugh and may shriek with joy when I am happy and we are having fun.
- I can be angry or frustrated and show it by saying “No!” or “Mine!”
- I may sometimes hit, push or bite because I’m angry or frustrated.

I care deeply about you.

- I may look independent sometimes, but don’t let that fool you.
- I may smile, hug you, run into your arms or lean against you to show my affection.
- When I play, I need you to watch what I do.
- I may try to follow you or cling when you get ready to leave.
- I may get frightened when you disappear from my sight. I know now when you’re gone and it frightens me.

Knowing when you will return makes me feel better and helps me learn about time.

- I am slowly learning that when those I love leave, they will return.
- I am learning about time and understand when you say, “I’m coming back after your nap and snack.”
- A consistent daily schedule helps me know when things will happen.

I LEARN ABOUT PEOPLE, OBJECTS AND HOW THINGS WORK

I am learning about choice and choices.

- I have favourite toys and favourite foods.
- I like to choose what to wear.

I like to see and be with other children my age or a little older.

- I have fun making silly faces and noises with other children.
- I may play out simple scenes with others such as, caring for dolls, riding in a train or talking on the phone.
- I do not know yet how to share but I learn through supervised play with others.
- You can help us play together peacefully by providing duplicates of our favourite toys.

I want to be like you.

- I learn how to relate to other people by watching how you act with me, our family and our friends.
- I imitate things you do like petting the dog, pushing a vacuum cleaner or getting ready for work.
- I feel proud and confident when you let me help you with your “real work” like making the bed or washing the vegetables.

I learn about how the world works.

- I am very interested in how the world works.
- I may go around a sofa when chasing a ball, knowing that it will come out the other side.
- If my music box winds down, I may try to find a way to start it again.
- I may use a stick or another object to reach a toy.

I LEARN TO MOVE AND DO

I am learning to do new things with my fingers and hands.

- I can make marks on paper with crayons and markers.
- I can stack and line up blocks.
- I can feed myself with my fingers.
- I can use a spoon and can drink from a cup.

I am learning to move in new ways.

- I can sit in a chair.
- I can pull myself up and stand by holding onto furniture.
- I learn to walk, first with help and then alone. Sometimes I still like to crawl.
- I begin dressing and undressing myself. I can push my foot into my shoe and my arm into my sleeve.
- I learn to walk forward, take a few steps backwards and try to climb stairs.

I LEARN TO COMMUNICATE AND RELATE

I communicate through my expressions and actions.

- I look you in the eye to get your attention and express feelings.
- I point to let you know what I want.
- I point to pictures of interesting objects, animals and people in books. I hope you will tell me about them.
- I may hit, kick or bite when I get too frustrated or angry. I need you to help me learn how to express these feelings in acceptable ways.

I communicate using sounds and words.

- I create long babble sentences.
- I use sounds other than crying to get your help.
- I may be able to say 2 to 10 or more words clearly.

I understand more than you may think – much more than the words I can say.

- I listen to you and watch you because I understand more than just words.
- I learn to look at a ball when you say “ball” in my home language.
- I can tell whether you’re happy or upset from the tone of your voice and how much tension I feel in your body when you hold me.

Disclaimer

The advice and information contained herein is provided in good faith as a service. However the accuracy of any statements made is not guaranteed and it is the responsibility of readers to make their own enquiries as to the accuracy, currency and appropriateness of any information or advice provided. Liability for any act or omission occurring in the reliance on this document or for any such loss, damage or injury occurring as a consequence of such act or omission is expressly disclaimed.