

Your Toddler's Development: 30–36 Months

Older toddlers are full of personality and energy. They want to know the reason for everything, which is why you may hear your child ask Why a lot! What kinds of questions is your child asking? What is she curious about?

What Your Toddler Can Do	What You Can Do
<p>My body helps me do “big kid” stuff now!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I can pedal a tricycle. • I can dress myself with your help. • I can draw a line. • I can turn a knob or unscrew a cap. 	<p>Let your child scribble with markers and crayons. This builds early writing skills.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Give your child chances to practice more advanced physical skills like pedaling and climbing. • Child-proof again so that your child’s new ability to open caps and doorknobs doesn’t lead to danger.
<p>I use language to express my thoughts and feelings.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • By age 3, I may use as many as 900 words. • I understand sentences with two or more ideas (You can have a snack when we get home). • I ask questions. • I know my first and last name. 	<p>Introduce new words to build your child’s vocabulary: Is your snack scrumptious?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ask questions that require more than a yes-or-no answer: Where do you think the squirrel is taking that nut? • Be patient with your child’s Why questions. • Ask him what he thinks before you answer.
<p>I am using my new thinking skills to solve problems.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I can remember what happened yesterday. I act out my own stories. • I’m becoming a “logical thinker.” When I am pretending that it is bedtime for Teddy, I put a blanket on him and sing him a lullaby. 	<p>At dinnertime or before bed, talk with your child about her day. This builds memory and language skills.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage your child to use logic in everyday situations: It’s raining. What do we need in order to stay dry?
<p>My friends are very important to me.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I like playing with other children. I may have one or two close friends. • I notice how people are the same 	<p>Help children deal with conflicts around sharing and turn-taking: There is only one train.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I will put the timer on and you will each have 5 minutes to play with it. While you wait for your turn, you can choose to play with cars or another toy. • Help your child be sensitive to differences among people: Yes, people do come in all different sizes.

For more information on parenting and child development, go to: www.zerotothree.org.

