

# YOUR THREE AND A HALF YEAR OLD



## Now and in the next few months, your child will:

- ♥ Feed independently with a cup and spoon
- ♥ Know he is a boy or she is a girl
- ♥ Match shapes and colors
- ♥ Unscrew lids (keep medicines out of reach)
- ♥ Ride a tricycle
- ♥ Perhaps need "things" a blanket or toy to be able to handle a situation or new environment
- ♥ Have periods of decreased motor coordination
- ♥ Whine more than you would expect
- ♥ May have some temporary speech problems (stuttering)
- ♥ Name five or six body parts
- ♥ Develop an increased sense of space concepts such as "on, over, beside, under"
- ♥ Increase language skills with speech becoming more complex, abundant and interesting



## TOYS OF INTEREST

- ♥ Beanbags and puppets
- ♥ Scissors, colored paper, pens, crayons
- ♥ CD's
- ♥ Dishes- Cooking utensils
- ♥ Sturdy packing boxes

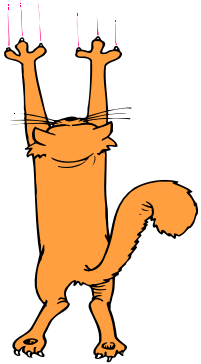
## PARENTING HINTS

- ♥ This is a period when your child wants to try things. Let him develop this ability to initiate activity; this is such a positive trait.
- ♥ This is not an easy age to handle. Take care of yourself by talking with others and getting help so you can have some time to yourself.
- ♥ Don't be alarmed about imaginary playmates. About 15-30% of children find them useful and nothing is harmed. These are more common with first and only children.
- ♥ At each stage of development playtime is fun, but it is also the work your child is supposed to do. Play develops in stages. First she plays alone, then with someone nearby, then both play at the same thing and finally children play cooperatively.
- ♥ Look for ways she can help you. Keep chores brief (set out napkins, put towels away, bring down a trash can). The task is helpful but the learning of responsibility and the gaining of praise and attention is the most important part.
- ♥ Not all three year olds are ready for preschool any more than all five year olds are ready for kindergarten. But if he does not go to preschool, provide group experiences for him.



**Your Three and A Half Year Old** is now a well-developed human being with a distinct personality. While you remain important to his development, it is a good time to check out your relationship with your partner. "Your children will develop their own emotional style based on how you treat them and on how you and your partner treat one another."  
 Frank Main, *Perfect Parenting*

**B**e aware of your importance as your child's first teacher. You make a huge difference in your child's success in life.



## FIRST TEACHER DEVELOPMENTAL CARDS

Parenting isn't easy. To do a good job, you need to understand how to teach your child appropriate behavior. Let him know when you are pleased with his behavior. Notice how your response affects him. You make a great difference to him today and tomorrow. In these early and critical years, learn about your child's development and understand your importance to him.

