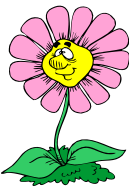


YOUR TWO YEAR OLD



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

- ♥ Run well without falling
- ♥ Speak in short (two-word) sentences
- ♥ Help to dress or undress himself
- ♥ Match objects that are the same
- ♥ Drink from a cup without help
- ♥ Begin to have hand preference
- ♥ Follow three-part commands
- ♥ Become more relaxed emotionally
- ♥ Unscrew the toothpaste top (new safety issue)
- ♥ Increase language and expression dramatically
- ♥ Deal with abstract ideas (objects and people not there)
- ♥ Like rituals in food and routines
- ♥ Want to hear stories about herself



TOYS OF INTEREST

- ♥ Crayons
- ♥ Simple wooden puzzles
- ♥ Dress-up clothes
- ♥ Balls & dolls
- ♥ Large beads & string
- ♥ Paper & washable markers
- ♥ Outdoor equipment

Your Two Year Old

Your two year old seems quite grown-up. He thinks with ideas, speaks in short sentences, and behaves more independently, He moves with confidence, reacts more maturely, and even responds using words. Hopefully, he is also learning to behave with others. This means that he is learning about limits and understands consequences. He really needs your help and guidance to teach him all these skills he needs in life.

PARENTING HINTS

- ♥ The first part of this year is likely to be easier than the second part for your two year old. His healthy independence will continue to show.
- ♥ Most crying at this age is because she is tired, hungry, separated from you, or wants her toys. Age two can be a time of fearful dreams which may need comforting.
- ♥ This is the most physical time yet. Provide lots of room to play. Working off energy outside is a lot better than inside.
- ♥ Don't be surprised that she plays cooperatively for only a few minutes with another child; that is yet to come. Most fights will be caused by wanting the same toy.
- ♥ One minute your child is likely to be independent, helpful or cooperative; the next he can become so upset that he can't talk and "falls apart." It really is the same child trying to put his life together based on his varying level of skills.
- ♥ This is a time your child likes to be with you. That makes it a great time to talk together. What you discuss isn't important but talking is. Take her places. She loves to go for walks or to the store. Talk with her about what is going on around you.
- ♥ Let him help you fold the laundry, unload the dishwasher, set the table and vacuum. It may take a little work but the payoff is wonderful for both of you.



We believe that you know your child best and you are your child's first and most important teacher. Nurture her. She needs you.



FIRST TEACHER DEVELOPMENTAL CARDS

Each child develops at his own unique pace.
 We forget this sometimes with a two-year-old who seems so much better organized than before.
 We think we can expect this to continue at a steady pace.
 Children grow and change in spurts.
 Expect slow periods following the fast periods.
 Each period is important and necessary.