

YOUR TWO AND A HALF YEAR OLD



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

- ♥ Scribble lines/patterns getting ready to write
- ♥ Follow simple directions
- ♥ Jump, roll, throw and kick
- ♥ Enjoy moving his body to music
- ♥ Walk up and down stairs with help
- ♥ Love new and different experiences and talk of them
- ♥ Laugh at her own humor
- ♥ Become willing to share and take turns
- ♥ Love making sounds of rhymes and songs
- ♥ Be unable to make a choice and stick to it
- ♥ Have trouble taking a nap and maybe with going to bed
- ♥ Start this year with 200 word vocabulary and by age 3 have 1,000 words (a monumental achievement)



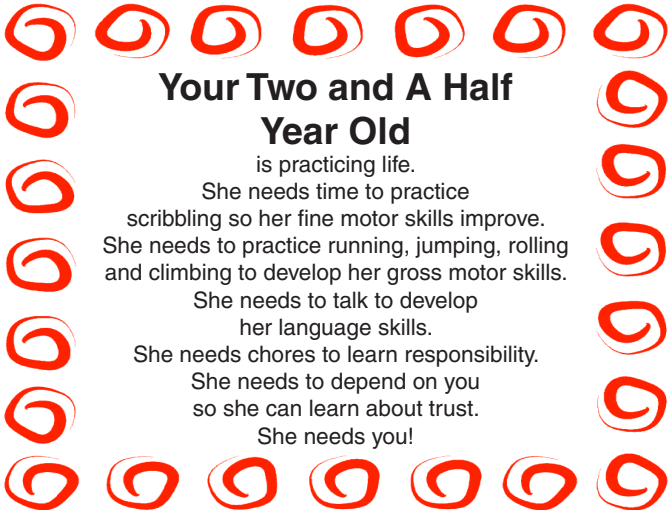
TOYS OF INTEREST

- ♥ Slide or climbing toy
- ♥ Sand box
- ♥ Pedal toys
- ♥ Play dough
- ♥ Balls
- ♥ Outdoor swing
- ♥ Paper & crayons
- ♥ Hats & other dress-up items
- ♥ Picture books



PARENTING HINTS

- ♥ Your curious child is excited about the new experiences in his life. These experiences help him learn and are the basis for his language development. Outdoors remains important, offering space for him to climb, hide, jump and ride.
- ♥ Make believe is still strong at this age.
- ♥ Your child depends on you to be in charge. If her tantrums cause you to back down or give in, she will be overwhelmed with having to be in charge. If you remain responsible, she will become responsible. Take charge; neglect is one of the worst forms of discipline.
- ♥ Television may become a greater issue. While your child may love watching TV, it's important to not let TV be his main entertainment or your babysitter. Limit the time and what he watches. He needs active play for developing.
- ♥ Teach your child how to express her emotions by helping her explain how she feels when she breaks her toy. She may say "Toy broke." You can talk about "How sad."
- ♥ When your child wants your attention, he can be very demanding. Help him find a better way with words.
- ♥ Consider ways to go along with your child's wishes when possible. Don't let every little thing become an issue. If it does, ask your partner or a friend for help to solve this.



Your Two and A Half Year Old

is practicing life.

She needs time to practice scribbling so her fine motor skills improve. She needs to practice running, jumping, rolling and climbing to develop her gross motor skills.

She needs to talk to develop her language skills.

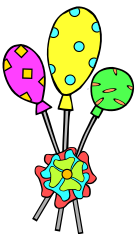
She needs chores to learn responsibility.

She needs to depend on you so she can learn about trust.

She needs you!



Parenting matters. You make a difference in your child's life because you are your child's first and most important teacher.



FIRST TEACHER DEVELOPMENTAL CARDS

Parents are constantly faced with decisions about their children. These developmental guidelines are hints about what a child needs to learn in life to continue to develop at an appropriate level. While each child has a unique pace of development, parents still need to understand what children need to learn. These hints are to help you be a prepared parent.

