

These are a list of skills your child may develop by the end of 24 months

Communication Skills

- Directs your attention to an object/action
- Chooses familiar objects upon request
- Understands new words rapidly
- Uses single words frequently; may begin combining two words (mama go)
- Uses babbling that sounds like adult speech
- Names familiar objects, may imitate small phrases

Fine Motor Skills

- Can draw an up and down line pretty well
- Likes to use hands for messy art activities
- May start to show hand preference, but may switch hand when holding pencil or spoon

Gross Motor Skills

- Can run without falling too often
- Climbing continues to be a favorite activity, provide safe places to explore
- Can stand on one foot while holding on to something
- Can kick a large ball well

Personal Social Skills

- Likes to be around other children, but may still prefer to play alone
- Wants to be more independent, doing things without adult help
- Wants to keep toys for self, even hiding so others can't play with them
- May start to let you know diaper is wet or dirty

Problem Solving Skills

- Play is important, it's how your child learns
- Follows a 1-step command without any gestures
- May start imagining and creating through pretend play

Communication Activities

- Play naming games with your child
- Give your child simple directions to follow ("Get the big ball.")
- Play matching games with socks, blocks, stuffed animals; talk about how they are the same/different
- Look at pictures of different animals; act out how they walk/sounds they make

Fine Motor Activities

- Use an easel or tape paper on a wall to allow child to draw while standing
- Play-Doh is a great way to build muscles in hands
- Use short golf pencils or broken crayons for greater control while drawing
- A Magnadoodle is a great way to encourage drawing, especially during time spent in the car
- Use a cookie sheet for finger painting activities, using pudding or mashed potatoes is fun

Gross Motor Activities

- Put masking tape on the floor to practice jumping over with both feet
- Move to music, give scarves, streamers, noise makers to use during the dancing
- Offer riding toys that allow child to push with feet on the ground

Personal Social and Problem Solving Activities

- Plan outings with your child to stores, playgrounds, zoos
- Sing songs with actions, Itsy Bitsy Spider, Where is Thumbkin, Wheels on the Bus
- Give old clothes to button, zip, and snap
- Use cereal boxes to make a 3-4 piece puzzle
- Add simple props to pretend play—purse, shoes, hats, empty food boxes
- Use pairs of objects around the house to find big and little—spoons, socks, books
- Turn objects upside down to see if your child notices they are the wrong way, they like playing silly games at this age