

Developmental Milestones in Early Childhood

The Two-Year-Old

Motor Skills

- Runs forward well
- Jumps in place, two feet together
- Stands on one foot, with aid
- Walks on tiptoe
- Kicks ball forward
- Throws large ball
- Stands on one foot momentarily
- Balances on balance board momentarily, with both feet
- Strings four large beads
- Turns pages singly
- Snips with scissors
- Holds crayon with thumb and fingers, not fist
- Uses one hand consistently
- Folds paper in half with demonstration
- Imitates circular, vertical, horizontal strokes
- Paints with some wrist action, makes dots, lines, circular strokes
- Rolls, pounds, squeezes, and pulls clay
- Constructs with Legos, Tinkertoys, etc.
- Turns handle on jack-in-the-box
- Clips clothespins on a can

Communication Skills

- Points to pictures of common objects
- Can identify objects when told their use
- Understands negatives such as "no," "can't," "don't"
- Enjoys listening to simple storybooks and requests them to be repeated
- Repeats two digits in order
- Labels common objects and pictures
- Joins vocabulary words together in 2- to 3-word phrases
- Gives first and last names
- Asks "what" and "where" questions
- Makes negative statements, such as "Can't open it"
- Shows frustration at not being understood
- 300-400 words in vocabulary

Cognitive Skills

- Responds to simple directions, such as "Give me the ball"
- Selects and looks at picture books
- Names pictured objects
- Knows concepts of *one, many, and more*
- Understands prepositions *to* and *with*
- Completes 3-shape formboard
- Can nestle cups sequentially
- Points to 6 body parts on doll
- Groups associated objects, such as cup and saucer
- Stacks rings on peg in size order
- Recognizes self in mirror
- Can talk briefly about what he or she is doing
- Imitates adult actions, such as sweeping, ironing
- Has limited attention span
- Learning is through exploration and adult direction
- Is beginning to understand functional concepts of objects, such as "Spoon is for eating"
- Is beginning to understand whole-part concepts

Personal-Social Skills

- Uses spoon, spilling little
- Gets drink from fountain or faucet independently
- Opens door by turning handle
- Takes off coat
- Puts on coat with assistance
- Washes and dries hands with assistance
- Plays near other children
- Watches other children and sometimes joins in their play
- Defends own possessions
- Begins to play house
- Uses objects symbolically
- Participates in simple group activities, games, songs
- Knows gender
- Increasing sense of independence
- Generally does as told, or minds
- May be afraid of thunder, sirens, loud noises
- May enjoy performing for others