

19 - 24 Months

Baby is growing into an independent toddler. She is mastering things on her own and seeks less help from her caregivers. She is beginning to engage in imaginary play. As she watches and observes her surroundings, she will begin to imitate the actions of others and try to role-play. She might pick up a broom to “houseclean,” or play “mom” with her dolls, etc. She is beginning to use simple sentences with the words she knows and is beginning to communicate and use language more easily. She notices her peers around her and enjoys their company but may need help mastering her social play skills, like sharing and turn taking.

A toddler will:

- **Begin to learn about others’ feelings and the concept of empathy.**
Baby is aware of her peers and is beginning to understand they have feelings just like she does. When someone takes a toy away from a friend or hits a friend, it hurts her and she may cry too. She is beginning to develop empathy for the people she cares for and realizes other people also get sad. Baby is developing the ability to take another person’s perspective.
- **Want to make her own choices and decisions about how she does things.**
Baby is becoming more independent as she masters doing things on her own. She will still look for assistance from her caregivers when she needs help. She is still dependent on them and knows they will comfort her and respond to her when needed.
- **Begin to develop a sense of imagination as she takes on different roles and engages in pretend play.**
- **Have more words that she uses to express herself and to get what she wants.**
By the age of two, baby’s communication will evolve from using simple two-word sentences to more complex complete sentences.
- **Parallel play starts with toddlers playing next to each other.**
They may not share or be doing the same activity but they will play next to each other.