

Developmental Milestones of Twos (24-36 months)

Children develop at his/her own pace, so it is impossible to tell exactly when your child will master a given skill. The developmental milestones below will give you a general idea of the accomplishments you can expect in your child during their year in the two-year-old preschool classroom.

Cognitive Milestones

- Finds objects even when hidden under two or three covers
- Begins to sort by shapes and colors
- Begins make-believe play
- Completes puzzles with three or four pieces.
- Knows body parts
- Knows own sex
- Matches primary colors
- Sorts shapes
- Matches similar pictures of objects
- Obeys two stage command

Language Milestones

- Points to object or picture when it's named for him
- Recognizes names of familiar people, objects, and body parts
- Uses 2- to 4-word sentences
- Follows simple instructions
- Repeats words overheard in conversation
- Sings simple phrases of songs
- Uses expressive vocabulary of 50+ words
- Vocalizes for all needs
- Give full name upon request
- Recites a few nursery rhymes
- Asks questions beginning with “what,” “where,” “where”
- By 3, has expressive vocabulary of 300-1000 words.

Gross Motor Milestones

- Walks alone

- Carries large toy or several toys while walking
- Begins to run
- Stands on tiptoe
- Kicks a ball
- Climbs onto and down from furniture unassisted
- Walks up stairs using alternating feet
- Walks backwards about 10 feet
- Jumps a distance of 24-34 inches

Fine Motor Milestones

- Scribbles on his or her own
- Turns over container to pour out contents
- Builds tower of eight blocks or more
- Imitates building of bridge with 3 cubes
- Might use one hand more often than the other
- Puts pegs in pegboard
- Strings beads
- Holds crayon with thumb and finger
- Copies a circle
- Folds a paper in half
- Snips with scissors

Social Milestones

- Imitates behavior of others, especially adults and older children
- More aware of him/herself as separate from others
- Excited about company of other children
- Demonstrates increasing independence
- Begins to show defiant behavior
- Separation anxiety increases toward midyear then fades
- Enjoys a wide range of relationships; meets more people
- Values own property; uses word “mine”
- Begins to obey and respect rules
- Extremely ritualistic; resists change
- Takes pride in achievements

Self Help Milestones

- Helps to clean up
- Washes hands
- Gains daytime toilet control
- Dresses self with assistance
- Hangs clothing on hook
- Uses eating utensil to feed self
- Serves self food at the table
- Wipes nose when needed