



Child Development

(3rd Year of Life)

This tip sheet describes some accomplishments your child will likely experience from 2-3 years of age.

The information provided here is intended to be a guide.

Remember, however, each child has his or her own plan and pace for growing and learning; no two children are alike. Trust your own instincts and feelings as you watch your child grow. But remember, it's okay to ask questions; it may even affect your child's development.

From age 2-3, I will:

- run, jump, and climb
- nap less
- try to help dress myself
- have extremes in behavior
- speak 200-1,000 words
- sing phrases of songs
- answer simple questions
- identify some body parts
- show an interest in other children
- enjoy pretend play



I need:

- to move around a lot
- encouragement in toileting
- clear and consistent routines and rules
- people to listen and talk to me
- to experience books often
- to develop hand coordination (puzzles, scribbling)
- to play with other children
- to go on outings (walks, parks, shopping)

Seek professional assistance if I:

- show signs of ear infections (pulling on ears, difficulty sleeping)
- have frequent illnesses or complaints

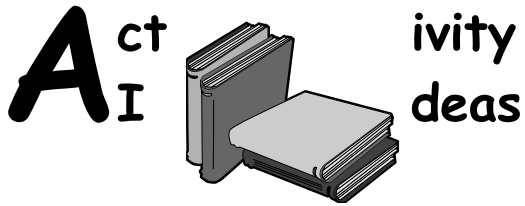
these can affect growth and learning if continued for a long period of time

Remember:

- to start toileting when I'm ready, not before.
- not to punish me for toilet accidents.

A project of The Florida Partnership for Parent Involvement

Center of Excellence ♦ Louis de la Parte Florida Mental Health Institute ♦ Florida's Children's Forum
Home Instruction Program for Preschool Youngsters ♦ Hillsborough County Head Start ♦ Hillsborough County Even Start



Read aloud to your child.

To start out, use books with just a few words.

Point to the colors and the pictures and say their names.

Encourage your child to talk about the story.

Ask her to predict what will come next.

Point out things in books that she can relate to in her own life: "Look at the eagle. Remember when we saw the eagle flying at the park?"

Finger puppets.

Cut the ends off the fingers of old gloves.

Draw faces on the fingers.

Glue yarn on for hair.

Have the puppet talk to your child.

Encourage your child to talk to the puppet.

Children will make many mistakes when they are learning to talk. Instead of correcting them directly, reply by using the right grammar. For example, if your child says, "Michael done it," reply, "Yes, Michael did it." Speak slowly and clearly so that your child can imitate your speech.

For more information contact....



The Center for Parent Involvement (FCPI) was funded by the U.S. Department of Education; Goals 2000, Educate America Act from 1994-1999. Guided by an advisory board of parents and professionals, the FCPI's goal was to tap the power of parents.

The FCPI gathered information on parent needs, coordinated the information, and created a series of resources organized by theme, including fact sheets for parents and professionals, "Beyond the Basics" resources, and resource identification lists. Many of the resources have been translated into Spanish language versions, and every effort has been made to preserve the meaning and flavor of the original English documents. This series of materials provides a wealth of current information for both parents and providers; the complete set of resources can be obtained in PDF format on the Department of Child and Family Studies Website at www.fmhi.usf.edu/cfs/dares/fcpi. The staff of the FCPI are hopeful that their work will continue to help children get ready to learn for many years to come.

The series' themes include:

- Family Empowerment
- Parent Involvement
- Parenting Support
- School Readiness
- Violence in the Lives of Children
- Transition to Kindergarten

The Center was one component of a project led by Hillsborough County Center of Excellence in collaboration with the Department of Child & Family Studies at USF's de la Parte Institute and the Florida Children's Forum. Other project partners include HIPPY (Home Instruction Program for Preschool Youngsters), Hillsborough County Head Start and Hillsborough County Even Start. For more information about these projects, call 813.974.4612.

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