

Developmental Snapshot

12 to 18 Months



Lily loves to play on the climber while you are watching. If it seems like you are not paying attention she will walk over to you and give a little poke. If an unfamiliar person comes near during her play then she will stay by you until you go with her to the climber. However, if another child comes near the climber Lily goes right over to them to see what they are doing. Sometimes Lily will copy the actions of the other child. When at home Lily seems to get into everything she sees and LOVES to open and close doors and cabinets. She gets a huge smile on her face when she realizes she can make things happen over and over again.

Luke is very busy exploring the world around him and trying new things, many of which he can't yet do. Sometimes he gets frustrated and may push item away he is trying to work with or if he is successful he excitedly works to get your attention so you can see. Additionally, he is starting to react to limit setting. When Luke gets upset one of his favorite calming activities is looking at books. He is able to point to the pictures in the board book as you talk about the pictures. If it is an item he really likes he may gesture and babble some words to communicate this with you. A first word maybe one of these items or a word heard often. When at home, Thomas is always on the move, crawling, walking, and climbing all over the place. He will often move around the house and squat down to pick-up whatever he finds on the floor. He also giggles when you put his socks on and he quickly takes them right off.

Try this....

- Make a family book full of photos that your child can look at when they are at home with a babysitter or take with them to child care. This helps develop a sense of security needed at this age. Label people and favorite items to develop vocab.
- Children at this age are ready to gain some autonomy; you can do this by giving them simple choices like do you want to wear the red socks or blue socks today? Do you want a banana or some peaches? Because autonomy is wanted it is now time to start giving warnings before it is time to change activities to help avoid power struggles.
- At this age togetherness time is loved; playing/singing simple games like "Ring Around the Rosie" or "Itsy Bitsy Spider" or rereading favorite pictures books allow for that while also developing language and those first words, while also working on large and fine motor skills.

Developmental Snapshot

18 to 24 Months



Tonya is a social butterfly at home! Saturday mornings she is always up bright and early and begins the day by bringing all her toys to you and piling them on you in bed. When the doorbell rings she runs to the door, repeating “hi, hi, hi” no matter who it is. In the same breath when you take her to tumbling class she acts a little shy and holds your hand for the first few minutes of class. For the most part Tonya is very easy going, but she has a love for her new favorite word, “no” which is her automatic responses no matter what the question is. She does follow 1-2 step directions though with your modeling and guidance in completing the task, like getting undressed for a bath.

Thomas loves to play fire fighter. He puts on his fire fighter hat and jacket and smiles at himself in the mirror. At school or during play dates Thomas does a lot of watching and copying of what the other child is doing. They are playing along side one another, but not really together. Also, if a friend has something Thomas wants often times he will just take it without asking. If a child tries to take something from him he is quick to say “no”! Thomas is also starting to use many other words and is putting them into two or three word sentences. These phrases usually are connected to something he wants, “more milk” or something he observes “dog is barking”. A lot of times Thomas then likes to do the activities he is saying. For example, if he says, “mom sweeping” he will pretending to sweep. On his own some of his favorite activities are hammering pegs into the peg board, using the shape sorter, and seeing what different noises the drums make.

Try this....

- Begin developing those self-help skills. Start your child’s zipper and let them finish. Teach them the flip trick with putting jacket on.
- Set aside time for puzzles, pegboard work, blocks, stringing beads, sorting games, peeling objects, or spreading peanut butter on bread to enhance fine motor development and cognitive skills.
- Help your toddler develop their communication skills by singing songs, reciting nursery rhymes, reading books together, pretend to talk on the phone to one another, and just always talk about what you are doing and observing.
- Model taking turns, asking to be next, expressing feelings when we don’t get our way, as a means of embracing prosocial behaviors.

Developmental Snapshot

2 to 3 years old



David loves to do everything by himself now, even if help is needed. For example, he may want to carry his own glass of milk to the dinner table and spill along the way. He gets a little upset when the milk spills, but will help clean it up as he is now able to follow two-step directions. David is also really into dramatic play now. As he plays with his car you can hear him saying “beep-beep” and driving in front of a friend who is pushing another car. He also likes to create a road for his cars with various objects around the house. If a friend interrupts his play he will tell them he doesn’t like it as he is very comfortable expressing his new learned emotion words.

Danielle is very strong willed about wanting to be in control. Routines are very helpful with this as it allows for her to be in control, with limits still being set. Her favorite routine is bedtime, where she must put on her pj’s, brush her teeth, and then have a story read to her. She loves to pick out her jammies and the story! During story time, loves to answer questions and talk about what is happening. Danielle also enjoys different activities that push her fine motor skills like stringing beads, using a q-tip to glue various objects, making lines and dots with various writing tools, and working on puzzles. She is very focused when working on all of these different projects both independently and in small groups. In addition to the fine motor activities Danielle is also becoming very skilled at playing hokey-pokey, kicking a ball, and throwing objects underhand.

Try this....

- When your child is testing limits, turn things into a game or song. This changes the tone of the situation and often engages the child in choices which makes them feel powerful within the limits you are setting.
- Create a dress-up box full of old hats, gloves, shoes, bags, etc that they can use with all of their play.
- Find lots of time for large motor play! Swinging, climbing, sliding, walking up and down stairs, and introducing balls and scarves to their movement activities.
- Retell stories together. Ask your child to make a new ending.
- Create a misc. craft box with odds and ends (cut-up scrap paper, pieces of fabric or yarn, beads, sequences) they can work on sorting and pasting to paper.