



Problem Solving

Activities to Help Your Toddler Grow and Learn



Your busy learner now recognizes animal pictures and other types of pictures, such as photographs of family members. He enjoys a lot of new activities with your help, such as painting and playing with playdough. He is beginning to understand about things that are similar or that go together in some way. He is very curious about how things work.

Copy Cat On a large piece of paper, draw and scribble together with your toddler. Take turns. You scribble, and then let her scribble. You draw a line, and then let her draw a line. Let her take a turn, and then you copy her scribbles.

Making Things Fit Allow your child a chance to play with puzzles or toys that fit together or inside each other. Plastic containers that “nest” are also fun. Use the word “fit” when you can: “That piece fits in the puzzle.”

Tool Time Let your child play games or do tasks in which tools are used. For example, use a sponge to wipe off a chair. Use a strainer to play in the sand. Use measuring cups to fill up containers in the bathtub.

Match the Socks When you fold laundry, set aside some of the socks, both large and small. Show your toddler one sock of a pair, and let him find the other. Show him how to match the socks if he needs help. Ask him, “Whose big blue socks are these?” “Whose little green socks are these?”

Nature Walk Go on a walk in your neighborhood, and collect little things such as rocks and leaves in a small pail or plastic tub. When you get home, try to put things together into different groups. For example, help your child sort big and little rocks, rocks from leaves, or black rocks from white rocks, making sure your toddler doesn’t put anything in her mouth. Your child will learn about grouping things.

Matching Pictures Cut out pictures of toys, food, and other familiar objects, and glue them on cards. Have your child try to match cards to actual objects or vice versa. Show your child a picture of a toothbrush. Ask him, “Where is a toothbrush like this?” Then show him a picture of a chair. “Can you find something like this?”



16–20 months