



# Personal-Social

Activities to Help Your Toddler Grow and Learn



Your toddler is beginning to exercise his newly found independence. He will want to do everything by himself, even if he cannot. He wants things now and quickly becomes frustrated if that doesn't happen. He will enjoy playing alongside other children even though he is not really able to share just yet. He likes to imitate simple household tasks and can put some of his toys away with some help from you.

**Baby Bear Beds** Make a little bed for your child's doll or a stuffed animal from a shoebox. A small piece of cloth or a dishtowel makes a blanket or a pillow. Your child can help her baby go to bed at night. She can read a story and tuck him into his new bed. Don't forget a kiss.

**Play Dates** Your child will need your help in playing with others but enjoys being with other children. Stay close by when he is with other children. Having a lot of the same kinds of toys helps the children cooperate. Several trucks, cars, and dolls are easier to share than one of each kind. Praise children for playing well together.

**Dress-Up** Make a box with dress-up clothing. Your child will have a lot of fun pretending. Have a bag or box with dress-up items: hats, scarves, shoes, old jewelry, and a wallet. Add clothing with large buttons and zippers to practice buttoning and zipping. Your child will need some help, but soon she will be able to get dressed all by herself. Give her a lot of praise for her efforts. Don't forget to let her look in the mirror.

**Playing House** Place a plastic dishpan on a low table for doing dishes. Add a doll, plastic plates, cups, and some cooking utensils. Make playhouse furniture for your child. Turn a box over, and draw the burners to make a stove. Follow your child's lead; talk and have fun.

**Picnic Outing** Find a place to have a picnic with your child. A park or the playground is a fun place, but your child will have fun even if the picnic is just in the living room. Let your child help prepare some simple food and drinks for the picnic. Maybe the stuffed animals would like to join you. Let your child practice eating all by himself.



20-24 months