



Problem Solving

Activities to Help Your Toddler Grow and Learn



Doing things all by herself is very important for your toddler. Be patient and enjoy this time of growing independence, even though it may sometimes be frustrating. Give your child plenty of time and chances to figure out and do things by herself. Make-believe is also an important part of your toddler's growth; real and make-believe can be confusing. Help your child learn about the difference, especially when watching TV.

Paper Bag Matching Game Gather at least two of several household objects. Use two paper bags with the same things in each bag. Pull one item out and ask your child to reach in and find one in his bag. Remind your child, "No peeking, just feeling!"

Helping Around the House Ask your toddler to help with the laundry. Sort things by color, or gather only white things. Maybe all of the baby clothes go in one place. Let your child help you put all of the socks in one pile and all of the shirts in another. She can line up the shoes and boots in the right place, and you can help her make sure they are in pairs.

Snack-Time Roundup When giving a snack to your child, teach him how to line up pieces of fruit, small crackers, or cereal loops. You can make a line of four things, and have him copy you. You can help your toddler count the food pieces and then eat them up.

Building with Boxes Gather up several small and medium-size boxes to use as building blocks. You can use shoe boxes, cereal boxes, clean milk cartons, and so forth. Encourage your child to build with the boxes. Ask her, "What are you making?" "Is that a house?" "Is it a wall?" Add toy cars or animals for more fun.

Where Is it? Using any object in your house, play Where Is It? with your toddler. For example, hide a stuffed bear under the pillow. Give your toddler clues to find the bear: "Where's bear? Can you find her? She's under something green," or "She is behind something soft." Give your toddler help as needed, and then let him hide things and give you some clues.



24–30 months