

2011

Strategies for Teaching Two-Year-Olds



Middle River Baptist Church Child Development Center



Strategies for Teaching Your Two-Year-Old

Domain: Social and Emotional Development

1. Learning about self

Demonstrates increasing self awareness	
24 to 30 months 1. Praise your child's efforts even if he is unsuccessful in what he is trying to do. 2. Always encourage your child to try first but be ready to help when necessary. 3. Clearly show him how to do a new task.	30 to 36 months 1. Encourage your child to try new activities and praise him for trying as well as accomplishing a task. 2. Encourage your child to help others. 3. Provide opportunities and time to explore and practice independence.
Shows more self control	
24 to 30 months 1. Be clear and consistent about limits and expectations. 2. Communicate expectations in different settings and how they can be alike or different from home. 3. Talk about using the toilet. Be patient. Your child will have accidents.	30 to 36 months 1. Praise and encourage your child when she shows self-control. 2. Minimize the time that your child waits. 3. Model using words to resolve conflicts. 4. Praise your child for using words appropriately. 5. Say, "It is nice to use those words" when words are used inappropriately. 6. Let the consequences for inappropriate behavior fit the situation.
Begins to solve some problems by himself.	
24 to 36 months 1. Model appropriate coping skills and problem solving skills. 2. Allow your child time to resolve his conflicts before stepping in. 3. Teach your child words that can be used to resolve conflicts.	
Communicates feelings through conversation and pretend play.	
24 to 36 months 1. Acknowledge and name your child's feelings. 2. Listen for clues about your child's feelings and needs. 3. Sit with your child, rub his back, and provide a soothing environment. 4. Regularly make time for one to one conversations. 5. Use dolls to help your child "act out" her feelings.	

2. Relating to others

Demonstrates more independence but may still need adult reassurance especially when mom/dad leaves.
24 to 36 months 1. Give reassurance and quickly involve your child in an activity upon arrival to the center in the morning. 2. Provide a consistent routine for arrival time that helps the child make a smooth transition. 3. Refrain from forcing the child on unfamiliar adults.

Adapted from: *HEALTHY BEGINNINGS: SUPPORTING DEVELOPMENT AND LEARNING FROM BIRTH THROUGH THREE YEARS OF AGE*



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Shows more awareness and understanding of the feelings of others

24 to 36 months

1. Help your child to identify his feelings and verbalize them.
2. Model empathetic behavior toward others such as comforting a child who is sad.
3. Make comments about what a good thing it is to be kind to others.

Begins to play beside other children

24 to 30 months

1. Model words that your child can use to resolve a conflict e.g. "May I have a turn?" or "I'm sorry."
2. Encourage and model cooperative play.
3. Practice turn taking with your child.

Begins to play cooperatively with other children

30 to 36 months

1. Provide opportunities for your child to play with other children in various settings.
2. Provide ample toys for your child to play with his friends.

Spiritual Development

Begins to develop an awareness of God, His creation, Jesus, and His Word.

24 to 36 months

1. Read Bible stories about Jesus and God.
2. Thank God with your child for the things that God provides.
3. Sing Bible songs.
4. Pray with your child.



Strategies for Teaching Your Two-Year-Old

Domain: Language Development

1. Listening and Speaking

Demonstrates active listening skills.	
<p>24 to 36 months</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ask your child to retell a story he has heard. 2. Ask open ended questions about the content of the story. 3. Give your child your undivided and undistracted attention when he is talking to you. 4. Ask about real life situations. 	
Understands questions and simple directions.	
<p>24 to 30 months</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Set up consistent routines that your child can easily follow. 2. Ask simple questions and give simple two step directions 3. Model the directions before expecting them to be followed. 4. Play games that involve using positional words such as behind, in front of, under, on etc. 5. Sing follow along songs like the "Hokey Pokey". 6. Give a few minutes warning before changing activities. 	
Understands and responds to simple directions and requests.	
<p>30 to 36 months</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Provide a predictable schedule and consistent routines. 2. Talk about your schedule using time words such as first, next, last, after, before, then. 3. Frequently use words that describe the positions of objects and people such as next to, behind, over, under. 4. Routinely tell your child that you will change activities in five minutes, and then do so. 	
Demonstrates communication skills.	
<p>24 to 30 months</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Engage in conversations with your child using adult language. 2. Encourage her to use words. 3. Listen and restate what she has said 4. Regularly sing with her. 5. Ask questions like "What is he doing?" when looking at pictures with her. 	<p>30 to 36 months</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Repeat and extends what your child says. 2. Ask open ended questions to extend conversations. 3. Include her in as many conversations as possible. 4. Give her many opportunities to converse with you and others. 5. Answers her questions and ask some in return. 6. Tell stories about the past and talk about the future.

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Strategies for Teaching Your Two-Year-Old

2. Reading & Writing

a. Pre-Reading

Becomes aware of the sounds of spoken language
<p>24 to 36 months</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Sing the same songs repeatedly. 2. Say rhymes and finger plays frequently. 3. Point out the sound at the beginning of your child's name and other words that begin with the same sound. 4. Play listening games that include animal or environmental sounds.
Recognizes that symbols have corresponding meanings
<p>24 to 36 months</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Point out symbols that occur in the environment especially those that designate favorite places, foods, or toys. 2. Talk about the signs adults need to know when driving or playing. 3. Label shelves and containers where things go with pictures and words. 4. Point out letters as they are encountered in real situations especially those in each child's name.
Begins to understanding simple literacy concepts such as the sequence and ideas of stories
<p>24 to 36 months</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Read with you child several times a day. 2. Point out interesting pictures and ask him to point to the pictures that go with what you are reading. 3. Reread favorite books over and over again. 4. Use positional words in daily conversations. 5. Connect examples from a story to real life situations. 6. Have a variety of age-appropriate books to select. 7. Model and point out concepts of print such as reading top to bottom, left to right, and front to back.
Increases vocabulary and language usage
<p>24 to 36 months</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Discuss words and word meanings daily as you encounter them. 2. Describe your actions as you do them. 3. Introduce new words. 4. Use exclamations to express emotion. 5. Engage in conversation on a regular basis. 6. Name objects.
Remembers content in stories
<p>24 to 36 months</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Give opportunities for your child to respond, retell and/or reenact a story. 2. Ask how a story relates to her experiences. 3. Read a variety of materials to her, including magazines, story books, recipes, etc.

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b. Pre-writing

Demonstrates pre-writing skills.

24 to 36 months

1. Make paper and large crayons and pencils available.
2. Provide materials and surfaces for painting.
3. Allow opportunities for expressive writing and drawing.
4. Encourage appropriate use of materials.
5. Enter into play with your child and model writing.
6. Ask your child to tell you about her drawing and ask if she would like you to write what she says on the paper.



Strategies for Teaching Your Two-Year-Old

Domain: Cognitive

1. Math

Recognizes a few basic shapes and colors

Shows an interest in sorting and objects by color, size or shape

Begins to notice the quantity of things

24 to 36 months

1. Play games with colors and shapes e.g. you put all of the red blocks in the box and I will put all of the green ones in the box.
2. Have your child match the socks as you fold laundry.
3. Model and describe sorting methods.
4. Use comparative words in daily conversations.
5. Have him count out his three cookies for his snack.
6. Use words such as more or less when talking about comparison and quantity

2. Science

Uses the senses to explore and observe the environment and gather information

Explores new ways to do things

Uses various tools for investigation

24 to 36 months

1. Model a sense of exploration and wonder.
2. Encourage exploration of the environment.
3. Read and discuss factual books as well as fiction.
4. Talk about what your child is seeing, hearing and touching.
5. Talk to your child about trying new ways of doing things herself.
6. Encourage the use of items in a new way.

3. Social Studies

Begins to demonstrate an understanding rules and routines

24 to 36 months

1. Provide predictable routines.
2. Point out and provide cause and effect in daily routines.
3. Keep routines consistent and tell of any changes in advance.

Begins to understanding consequences associated with following the rules

24 to 36 months

1. Expect your child to follow the routines that you have established.
2. Remind him about the rules that you have established.
3. Discuss the reasons for the rules.
4. Enforce rules consistently providing praise and rewards for responsible behavior and consequences that fit the situation.

Uses imagination, memory and reasoning to plan and make things happen e.g. your child may sit on a cushion and pretend that he is driving daddy's car

24 to 36 months

1. Join in pretend play scenarios
2. Provide costumes and props for pretend play



Strategies for Teaching Your Two-Year-Old

Domain: Physical Development

1. Gross Motor Development

Performs more complex movements that with arms and legs

24 to 36 months

1. Provide space for movement.
2. Model safety.
3. Allow your child to take some risks with movement. Remain close to provide protection and safety.
4. Provide a safe place for your child to ride a tricycle or other riding toys.

Uses whole body to explore and become aware of the space around him

24 to 36 months

1. Dance, march, and move with your child.
2. Use words such as up, down, over, under, around, and through with the movements being performed.
3. Visit playgrounds with climbing equipment for climbing and running outside.
4. Provide ways for your child to experience rhythm.

2. Fine Motor Development

Uses improved eye-hand coordination to manipulate small objects

24 to 36 months

1. Provide a variety of small toys to manipulate such as large beads, shape sorters, sidewalk chalk, hand puppets, Duplo blocks, and one inch counting cubes.
2. Provide play dough and tools, markers, crayons, chalk, scissors and paper.
3. Provide small pieces snack foods.

3. Self-Help Skills

Does more things for himself, such as hanging up his coat, washing hands, taking off his clothes, etc.

24 to 36 months

1. Encourage your child's independence and be patient with his efforts.
2. Offer assistance if the he becomes overly frustrated and absolutely cannot do it by himself.
3. Set up the environment so things are reachable.
4. Provide step stools and coat hooks.
5. Praise him for his efforts.
6. Allow him to do anything for themselves that he is able to do.
7. Get him started with a difficult but allow him to finish the task himself.