

# Your Toddler's Development: 24–30 Months

This is an exciting time as older toddlers are using their growing language skills to tell you what they are thinking and feeling. They are also building friendships with other children. And their growing physical skills—walking, running, and climbing—help them explore the world in more adventurous ways. What do you find most amazing about your child's development at this stage?

What Your Toddler Can Do	What You Can Do
<p><b>I use my body to get me places!</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I can walk up stairs one foot at a time.</li> <li>• I can walk backward.</li> <li>• I can balance on one foot which helps me climb.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Go on a neighborhood walk.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Let your child stop to check out what's interesting to her.</li> <li>• Play "island hop." Line up pieces of paper on the floor and help your child jump from one to the next.</li> </ul>
<p><b>I am using language to tell you what I'm feeling and thinking.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I can make longer sentences: Mama play truck?</li> <li>• My favorite words may be no, me, and mine.</li> <li>• I may get overwhelmed by my strong feelings and have trouble putting them into words.</li> <li>• I might need your help to calm down.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Ask about your child's ideas: What part of the book did you like?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Acknowledge feelings and teach social skills at the same time: I know the doll stroller is your favorite toy, but Thomas would like a turn pushing it.</li> <li>• Help your child recover from a tantrum.</li> <li>• Some children respond to being comforted. Others do better with some alone time in a safe, quiet place.</li> </ul>
<p><b>I am getting really good at playing pretend.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I can use one object to stand in for another. A shoebox may become a bed for my stuffed hippo.</li> <li>• I laugh at silly things, like the idea that my toy car might go moo instead of beep beep.</li> <li>• Sometimes I get scared. I am getting so good at using my imagination but am not always sure what's real and what's pretend.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Use pretend play to help your child handle challenging situations.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• You might act out a story together about meeting a new babysitter.</li> <li>• Let your child lead the play. Ask: Who should I be? What will happen next?</li> <li>• Respond sensitively to your child's fears.</li> <li>• Explain what is real and pretend. This builds trust and security.</li> </ul>
<p><b>I want to make friends but still need help with sharing.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I like watching other children and may copy what I see them do.</li> <li>• I may have one or two good friends.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Give your child regular chances to play with children her age. This builds social skills.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Help your child with conflicts around sharing and turn-taking.</li> <li>• Let her know you understand that sharing is hard. Help her find another toy to play with until it's her turn.</li> <li>• Use a kitchen timer to help her learn to wait.</li> </ul>

For more information on parenting and child development, go to: [www.zerotothree.org](http://www.zerotothree.org).

