



GCAPP PARENT TOOLKIT:

Your Toddler's Development: 18-24 Months

This is a time of great fun for parents as they watch their babies become eager explorers who are thrilled to discover that they can make things happen. A 7-month-old knows, When I smile, mommy smiles back! A 9-month-old lifts her arms to tell her dad, I want you to pick me up.

How is your baby making things happen?

■ What Your Toddler Can Do?

■ What You Can Do?

This is a delightful stage as children begin to talk and talk and then talk some more.

- Toddlers are also starting to pretend. This is a big step in their development and makes life really fun and often very funny.
- How do you see your child starting to use their imagination?

Turn your child's words and phrases into sentences.

- When they say, "More milk", you can say: You want more milk in your cup.
- Talk as you read. Ask your child questions about the pictures and stories you read together.

I need help to begin learning self-control.

- I understand no but I still can't control my feelings and actions.
- I may get frustrated when I can't do something by myself. Please be patient!

Put your child's feelings into words.

- I know you're really mad that I turned the TV off. It's okay to feel mad. Instead of TV, would you like to read or play with blocks now?

I am beginning to use my imagination.

- I may feed my doll pretend food.
- I might make brrummm noises when I play with cars.

Play pretend with your toddler.

- You can be a puppy, barking and running after a ball.
- Jump-start your child's imagination with dress-up clothes, animal figures, blocks, and plastic food and dishes.

I am a little scientist, always testing things out!

- I love to fill and dump and open and close things to see how they work.
- I may start to sort objects. I might put all my trains in one place and all my cars in another.

Help your child practice sorting.

- Ask your child to help you sort the laundry by putting socks in one pile and shirts in another.
- Encourage lots of exploration. Fill and dump with water or sand. Make an indoor "sandbox" of dry oatmeal or fall leaves.

HOW IS YOUR BABY MAKING THINGS HAPPEN? (CONT.)

■ I am becoming an even better problem-solver.

- I may blow on my food when you tell me dinner is hot or try to get my own jacket on.

■ Help your child solve a problem but don't do it all for him.

- The more he does, the more he learns.
- Play games that use problem-solving skills.
- Try three- or four-piece puzzles or building with blocks.



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