

Your Child's Stage of Development

One year olds

Children grow and change very rapidly from birth to age one. Generally by age one, most children

- Identify and react to others
- Play games like peek-a-boo
- Sit up without support
- Imitate sounds
- Recognize their name
- Wave good-bye
- Crawl/begin to walk
- Have no sense of caution
- Pull themselves to a standing position
- Feed themselves small pieces of food
- Show interest in other children

Two year olds

Two year olds are struggling to be independent, yet they are still very dependent. General traits of a two year old are

- Assert independence
- Demand attention
- Favourite word is "no"
- Has tantrums (hits and bites)
- Easily distracted and very active
- Self-centered and possessive
- Need help dressing
- May develop fears
- Can jump and throw a ball
- Adorable, although for some, this is only when they sleep!

Three year olds

Children want to please their parents, particularly from around age three to puberty. General traits include

- Still say "no", but are more cooperative
- Favourite word is "why"
- Begin to play with other children
- Attention span is increasing
- Active imagination
- Can repeat short nursery rhymes and stories
- Speak in short sentences
- Learn to share and wait their turn
- Imitate others
- Very active
- Need help dressing

While two year olds are at one of the cutest stages, they can be a real trial to live with. This is the age of transition between infancy and childhood.

Three year olds are learning to do more things for themselves. They want to please their parents. It is critical they be able to please you. If you are too difficult to please, they give up and become rebellious or withdrawn.

Your Child's Stage of Development

Four year olds

- Able to express themselves in words, complete sentences, and conversations
- Ask constant questions
- Very imaginative
- Recognize colour
- Can match size, shapes and colours
- Play well with other children
- Boss and criticize others
- May be afraid of the dark, thunder and animals
- Enjoy playing with puppets, dolls, dress-up, and cars
- Learning right from left
- Like physical activity
- Can go up and down a short ladder
- Can through balls overhand
- Balance is good
- Can dress alone and manage buttons
- Able to cut with scissors
- Begin to form letters, sometimes backwards

Five year olds

- Can speak clearly
- Memory improving
- Attention span longer
- Generally cooperative and reliable
- Want to help
- Count well
- Can learn own phone number and address
- Play cooperatively with friends
- Want to fit in and feel accepted
- Curious
- Gaining self-control
- Sensitivity to others is increasing
- Still have fears
- Can print own name
- Can retell stories and make up stories
- Have good balance and physical coordination
- Able to work with tools
- Begin to tie shoelaces



Remember these are just guidelines.

Every child is unique, and will develop at their own pace.