

Individual Assessment Criteria for Young Toddler (Children 9 months to 18 months as of September 1)

The following skills are typical of developmental stages for children 9 - 18 months of age. As your child accomplishes these skills, the teachers will provide appropriate experiences to extend your child's learning.

SOCIAL

- Plays simple games with adults
- Begins to participate in routine transitions
- Looks back and forth between toy and adult while playing
- Begins to interact playfully with others
- Engages in independent play; moving toward parallel play
- Begins to imitate peers and/or adult actions
- Brings familiar people their shoes or other personal objects
- Feeds doll or stuffed animal with pretend bottle or food

EMOTIONAL

- Accepts adult help in calming/comfort
- Shows attachment to a significant adult (caregiver)
- May show signs of stranger anxiety
- Enjoys praise and clapping to celebrate accomplishments
- Begins to express a variety of emotions
- Tries different ways to calm themselves
- Makes choices by using verbal and/or non-verbal communication
- Begins to recognize personal belongings
- Intentionally selects objects to play with
- Shows interest in dressing and undressing themselves
- Enjoys making faces at themselves in mirror
- Begins pointing to and may name some body parts

INTELLECTUAL/COGNITIVE

Language and Communication

- Understands names of familiar objects (cup, banana, juice, etc.)
- Points with index finger to communicate
- Speaks in jargon or nonsense (babbling)
- Looks at person who calls their name or is speaking
- Begins to imitate sounds
- Expresses a variety of emotions to communicate wants and needs
- Understands what "no" means
- Says first words by 9 to 12 months
- Asks to continue a game by signing or saying "more"
- Uses gestures, signs, or actions to communicate wants or needs
- Begins to make familiar animal sounds
- Begins to respond with body language or words to simple questions
- Uses simple words along with hand motions to communicate
- Attempts to name people and objects using words or word approximations
- Follows simple instructions
- Uses approximately 20-100 words in home language (by 18 mos.)

Exploration and Discovery

- Beginning to respond to music
- Searches for hidden object
- Enjoys taking objects out of containers and putting them back in
- Uses objects or utensils to bang on the table and make noise
- Enjoys playing with objects that make sounds
- Closes doors
- Finds hidden object
- Looks to see where objects went when they are dropped
- Experiments pushing buttons on toys

INTELLECTUAL/COGNITIVE

Exploration and Discovery, continued

- Asks, gestures, or signs, to be picked up to reach something
- Attempts to nest three or four cups of different sizes
- Looks closely at small objects
- Uses toy versions of real objects appropriately (phone, blanket)

Early Literacy

- Imitates body language and/or makes sounds during familiar songs, fingerplays, or rhymes
- Participates in activities or songs that require listening
- Enjoys being read to and exploring books
- Recognizes a favorite book when called by name
- Points to or begins to name familiar objects and pictures with adult guidance
- Begins to repeat words in simple songs, rhymes, and/or fingerplays

PHYSICAL

Gross Motor

- Squats down and stands back up without support
- Crawls up and down stairs
- Sits on a "ride-on" toy and moves it back and forth
- Crawls into, around, or over obstacles
- Pushes and pulls objects
- Walks while hands are held or holding to furniture
- Walks forward without support, may fall
- Walks on their own and with increasing speed
- Carries a large object

Fine Motor

- Scoops or rakes with their hand to pick up objects, food, etc.
- Grabs, drops, or throws toys
- Bangs toys or other objects together to make sounds
- Stacks 2 objects
- Feeds themselves with some assistance
- Holds and drinks from a sippy cup
- Attempts to turn pages of board book
- Pulls off socks and shoes
- Grasps small object with thumb and forefinger
- Makes marks or scribbles on paper

- Begins to complete multi-piece shape sorter
- Attempts to match simple puzzle pieces

SPIRITUAL

- Responds to a warm, loving environment
- Beginning to participate in prayer at meal and snack times
- Begins to listen to stories and songs about God and Jesus
- Developing a sense of wonder and curiosity about God's world