

Social-Emotional Development Guide

2
Months

Learn what types of behaviors to expect from your growing baby.

Your baby:

is really smiling at you and others now.

is not crying as much as she was a newborn.

uses different cries to tell you when he is hungry, uncomfortable, or sick.

“talks” to you with noises and gurgles.

looks at your face and may look in your eyes, but only for a few seconds at first.

lets you know she is happy by cooing, smiling, laughing, and gurgling.

will sometimes be fussy only because he wants your attention.

likes to be with people and is becoming more interactive with you.

is learning about eating and sleeping times, but it will take a few months for him to know the routine.

likes to be picked up, hugged, and cuddled by people she knows.

likes to play with her fingers, hands, feet, and toes.

feels safe in your arms and enjoys your hugs.

can recognize familiar people by their voices.



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Your baby:

responds to your smile and sometimes laughs when looking at you.

responds to your soothing and comforting and loves to be touched or held close.

responds to your affection and may begin to show you signs of affection.

has improving vision, and she is getting more curious about what she sees. She enjoys watching other babies and children.

focuses on your voice and turns his head toward your voice. He may turn to you when you call his name.

will sometimes stop crying when you talk to him rather than pick him up.

sometimes sucks on her fingers and hands to calm herself down.

may be frightened by loud or unfamiliar noises.

enjoys learning simple games such as Peekaboo.

sometimes likes quiet and being soothed. Other times, she likes talking and playing.

plays with sounds and may babble by putting sounds together such as “ma-ma-ma,” “ba-ba,” and “da-da-da.”

wants you and no one else, a lot of the time!



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Your baby:

responds to her name when you call her.

is interested in other babies and children.

shows many emotions, such as happiness, sadness, anger, and discomfort.

may have fears, such as fear of falling, darkness, large animals, loud sounds, or changes in routine.

may be shy around new people or seem jealous if you pay attention to someone else. He may need some time to watch and warm up to new people and new places.

responds differently to strangers than she does to family members and friends she sees a lot.

is becoming more independent. She may seem stubborn or frustrated when she cannot do something herself.

wants you in his sight all the time. He may get upset when you leave him with someone else.

imitates other children and adults. She may imitate sounds, actions, and facial expressions.

gives affection by hugging and kissing. He may hug or kiss you, familiar children and adults, pets, or stuffed animals.

watches other people. She may respond to someone's pain by crying or showing distress.

is beginning to show his likes and dislikes. He may push things away that he does not like. He may feel attached to a special toy or blanket.



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Learn what types of behaviors to expect from your growing toddler.

Your toddler:

is generally happy and smiles at people, including other children.

likes to talk and is using more words every day!

likes to show affection and give hugs and kisses.

is showing different emotions such as fear, guilt, sympathy, modesty, or embarrassment.

likes to do things by himself. He may seem stubborn, but this is normal.

likes to help with simple household tasks.

turns to you for help when she is in trouble.

enjoys playing near other children but not with them just yet.

likes to say, "No!" He may have a quick temper and sometimes hits when frustrated.

likes to be the center of attention.

may hand toys out to other children, but he does not understand how to share and wants the toys right back.

loves to imitate others.

can play by herself for short periods of time.

recognizes herself in pictures or mirrors.

loves to be held and read to and becomes upset when separated from you.

has specific likes and dislikes.



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Learn what types of behaviors to expect from your growing toddler.

Your toddler:

likes to imitate you, other adults, and her friends.

wants to do everything by himself, even though he can't!

likes to use the words *mine*, *no*, and *me do it*.

has many emotions, and her emotions can be very "big." She can get angry and have temper tantrums.

likes to imitate you doing household tasks. He can put some of his toys away with help from you.

loves to try new things and explore new places. But she wants to know you are nearby to keep her safe.

is very interested in other children. He is still learning how to play with them.

will play nearby other children but not really with them. She does not understand how to share her things yet.

has a hard time waiting and wants things right now.

knows her name and knows what she likes and dislikes. She may be very attached to certain things, such as a special book, toy, or blanket.

is learning about the routines in your home but often does not remember rules.

loves attention from familiar adults and children but may act shy around strangers.

shows affection by returning a hug or kiss. He tries to comfort familiar people who are in distress.

enjoys simple pretend play. He may like pretending to cook or talk on the telephone.



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Learn what types of behaviors to expect from your growing child.

Your child:

likes using her growing imagination. She likes to play with puppets, dress-up clothes, dolls, and play figures.

is beginning to understand others' feelings. He is learning to identify when another child is angry or happy.

is getting louder and bossier at times. He may talk with a loud, urgent voice.

enjoys hearing songs and stories—sometimes over and over again.

can follow simple routine directions such as “Bring me your cup” and “Please go in your room and get your socks.”

greet familiar adults and is happy to see friends.

is beginning to learn about sharing. She does not always share but can sometimes.

likes to be hugged and cuddled—but not in the middle of playtime.

sometimes screams and throws temper tantrums.

wants to be independent sometimes but also wants you nearby. She will now easily leave your side if she is in familiar surroundings.



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Learn what types of behaviors to expect from your growing child.

Your child:

is more independent and can do many things for herself. Your child will tell you, "I can do it myself!"

is still learning to follow simple rules, although he sometimes needs gentle reminders.

now plays briefly *with* other children. She is still learning about sharing and taking turns.

likely has a special friend that he prefers playing with. Boys may prefer playing with boys, and girls with girls.

is becoming more independent. When you go on outings, she will not always hold your hand or stay by your side.

has emotions that may shift suddenly, from happy to sad or from mad to silly. He's learning how to handle his emotions.

can sometimes use words to express her feelings.

is beginning to think about other people's feelings and learning to identify their feelings, too.

sometimes bosses people around and makes demands. This shows that he is independent and values himself. He might do something that he is asked to do, but he is more willing if he thinks it is his idea.

uses imagination to create stories through pretend play with dolls, toy telephones, and action figures.

may be fearful and sometimes has nightmares. Scary images and sounds, even cartoons, can give her nightmares.

has an increasing attention span. She often stays with an activity for at least 5 minutes.



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Learn what types of behaviors to expect from your growing child.

Your child:

likes to play with other children and has favorite games and playmates.

is beginning to share. He takes turns but is possessive of favorite toys.

expresses extreme emotions at times—happiness, sadness, anger, silliness. She may be able to label her own feelings.

often uses real-life situations when he plays, such as going to the store, school, and gas station.

may have imaginary friends when playing games, sleeping at night, and going to preschool.

now understands short and simple rules at home.

is starting to understand danger. She knows when to stay away from dangerous things.

is beginning to control his feelings of frustration.

loves silly jokes and has a sense of humor.

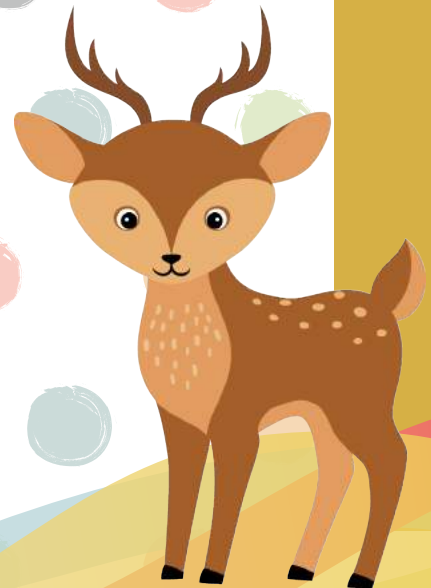
may use her imagination a lot, and she can be very creative.

is becoming more independent and adventurous. He may like to try new things.

can be boastful and bossy at times with her new independence.

shows concern and sympathy for younger siblings and playmates when they are hurt or upset. His ability to empathize—to put himself in someone else's shoes—is increasing.

has an increasing attention span. She often stays with an activity for at least 10 minutes.



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Learn what types of behaviors to expect from your growing child.

Your child:

likes to play best with one or two other children at a time.

likes to choose his own friends and may have a best friend.

now plays simple games such as Candy Land and Go Fish.

may play with small groups of children at the park or at school.

likes to talk with familiar adults and children.

understands and can follow simple rules at home and at school.

is now very independent and likes to make his own choices about clothes to wear, foods to eat, and activities in which to be involved.

is sensitive to other children's feelings. She can identify other people's feelings: "She's sad."

understands how to take turns and share at home and at school, but he may not want to all of the time.

shows a variety of emotions. She may be jealous of other children at times, especially of a younger brother or sister who is getting attention.

feels adult approval is very important. Your child looks to adults for attention and praise.

is showing some self-control in group situations and can wait for his turn or stand in a line.

is usually able to respond to requests such as "Use your quiet voice" or "Inside is for walking."

is beginning to understand the meaning of right and wrong. She does not always do what is right, though.

has an increasing attention span. She is able to focus her attention for a necessary length of time, such as listening to directions or a story.

