



Developmental Characteristics For ONE-YEAR-OLDS

A child who is 12 to 24 months of age tends to develop skills rapidly. The following abilities will emerge as the child approaches age three.

COGNITIVE

Personal Curiosity/Autonomy

1. Shows curiosity and interest in surroundings
2. Imitates the actions of adults
3. Plays independently of other children occasionally interacting with them
4. Enjoys playing simple musical instruments
5. Enjoys looking at books
6. Plays alone for short periods of time
7. Pushes away something not wanted
8. Moves object aside in order to reach another desired object
9. Pulls strings to obtain object attached to it

Senses

1. Feels difference in temperature, taste, smell
2. Begins to place large puzzle pieces in appropriate slots

Memory

1. Refers to self by name
2. Points to get desired object
3. Matches pictures to real things
4. When hidden object is moved from one place to another, child searches in the new place
5. Can identify requested item from selection of 3 familiar toys
6. Enjoys doing same thing over and over



Creativity

1. Stays on a large paper while scribbling
2. Enjoys messy play, such as finger painting

LANGUAGE

Sentence Structure

1. Copies a few simple sounds or actions
2. Uses some words correctly, such as “mama”, “oh oh”, or “no”
3. Uses 1-2 word sentences
4. Repeats parts of songs, rhymes, and finger plays
5. Copies 2-4 words adults say
6. Responds to simple instructions such as no, stop, or come here
7. Uses words to make wants known
8. Talks or babbles to other children while playing near them

Listening

1. Listens to a short story
2. Understands many words and simple directions
3. Enjoys nursery rhymes, songs, and finger plays
4. Enjoys listening to music and dancing

Labeling

1. Identifies self in mirror
2. Hugs and kisses people they like
3. Turns familiar pictures right side up
4. Points at or names familiar things

Self

1. Points to one-four body parts when named
2. Assists in dressing and undressing
3. Drinks from a cup without help, spilling occasionally
4. Holds a spoon and dips into food
5. Begins to feed self
6. Removes at least one piece of clothing, such as a sock
7. Uses his or her own name
8. Chews food well
9. Washes and dries hands with help
10. Feels frustrated easily
11. Shows many emotions

Social Studies

1. Recognizes self in photograph
2. Tries to comfort others
3. Plays simple pretend games

MATH

Counting

1. Understands the concept of “one”
2. Counts two (repeats two digits)

Classifying

1. Matches same toys
2. Matches pictures to real things

Shapes

1. Interested in putting correct shapes in shape sorter with assistance

SCIENCE (1½ to 2)

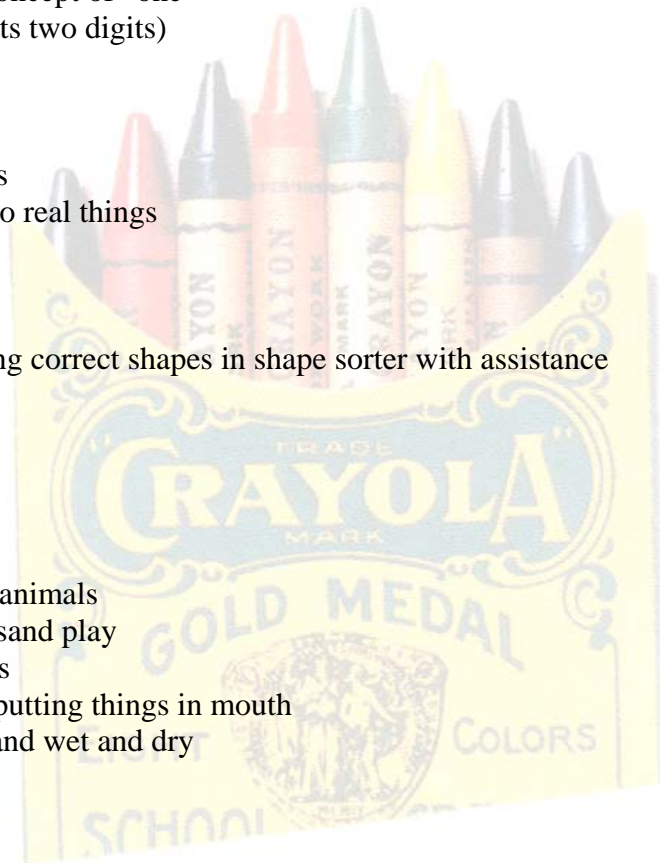
Concepts

1. Matches sound to animals
2. Enjoys water and sand play
3. Interested in colors
4. Explores without putting things in mouth
5. Begins to understand wet and dry

GROSS MOTOR

Arm-Eye Coordination

1. Rolls a ball
2. Throws a ball
3. Plays “catch” with an adult by rolling a ball back and forth
4. Hands a toy to a friend
5. Reaches for a ball that rolls out of sight



Body Coordination

1. Pulls self to standing position
2. Walks while hands are held or holding onto furniture
3. Walks forward without support, may fall occasionally
4. Walks backward
5. Pushes, pulls, or carries toy while walking
6. Jumps in place with both feet
7. Enjoys moving to music
8. Tries to kick a ball with one foot
9. Walks up and down stairs with assistance
10. Rides a small riding toy without pedals (1½ to 2)
11. Walks on a wide balance board (1½ to 2)
12. Begin to balance on one foot (1½ to 2)
13. Begin to run (1½ to 2)

FINE MOTOR

Finger Strength and Dexterity

1. Picks up a one inch block
2. Puts small objects through a slot into a container
3. Grasps raisin or other tiny object with thumb and forefinger
4. Turns pages of a book, maybe several at a time
5. Puts a 1-3 piece puzzle or form board together
6. Tries to copy folding
7. Unwraps packages or peels a banana, once started

Eye-Hand Coordination

1. Zip and unzip easy zippers
2. Enjoys using play dough, paint, paper
3. Strings large beads
4. Passes object from one hand to another
5. Bangs two blocks together, one in each hand
6. Colors with a large crayon
7. Stacks a tower of two-four blocks
8. Fits a 2-4 inch ring onto peg
9. Puts up to six large round pegs into a peg board

