

What your child will learn during this stage of development.

12 – 16 MONTHS

Language & Literacy

COMMUNICATION

- Shows steady increase in words used when speaking and words understood when listening
- Imitates words and sounds similar to the rhythm of his/her home language
- Uses words, facial expressions, and body movements to communicate needs and wants
- Points to and names familiar objects
- Responds to simple one-step directions with visual cues
- Responds to simple questions with “yes” or “no”
- Follows simple verbal requests (with minimal gestures or visual cues)

LITERACY

- Enjoys being read to
 - Gives a book to an adult to read
 - Points to and names familiar objects in books
- Looks at picture books independently
- Turns pages in book
- Identifies familiar environmental print and logos (e.g., familiar snack)
- Makes appropriate sounds when looking at pictures in books (e.g., “choo-choo” for a picture of a train)
- Focuses on and enjoys playing with repetitive sounds, words, rhymes, and gestures
- Shows a preference for a familiar book

Mathematical Thinking

GEOMETRY AND RELATIONSHIPS

- Remembers where things are kept
- Nests or stacks three rings
- Demonstrates an understanding of up and down

PROBLEM-SOLVING AND REASONING

- Retrieves a ball that has rolled out of sight
- Handles three objects by setting one object aside
- Matches lids with appropriate containers
- Notices and responds to changes in familiar objects, places, or events



Creative Expression

MUSIC, MUSICIANS, AND MOVEMENT

- Listens intently to music and attempts to sing songs
- Bobs or rocks body in response to music
- Plays simple musical instruments with purpose

ART AND ARTISTS

- Experiments with crayons and markers
- Scribbles on paper using whole-arm movement
- Experiments with finger paint

DRAMATIC PLAY

- Acts out familiar routines and events, and imitates familiar adult behavior
- Pretends to be familiar animals



Social-Emotional Learning

SELF-HELP SKILLS

- Helps to dress and undress self
- Feeds self independently with hands
- Attempts to feed self with spoon
- Points to self when named
- Takes off socks and shoes
- Focuses on an interesting activity or interaction shared with adults for a short period of time
- Seeks caregiver when help is required

SOCIAL INTERACTION

- Assists in picking up toys
- Offers a toy when prompted
- Engages in parallel play
- Engages in multisensory activities
- Shows awareness of others' feelings
- Shows varied emotions
- Shows pleasure at the arrival of classmates/teachers



Wellness

GROSS MOTOR SKILLS AND BALANCE

- Walks with increased stability
- Crawls up stairs
- Pushes and pulls toys while walking
- Throws a ball forward
- Uses body to explore space
- Experiments with different ways of balancing

FINE MOTOR SKILLS

- Puts items into a container
- Turns over small containers to find objects
- Pushes button to produce a desired effect (e.g., pop-up toy, books that make sounds)
- Stacks a tower of two to three blocks
- Points with index finger
- Uses hands and eyes together to build and take apart toys/materials (e.g., stacking blocks, pulling apart pop beads)
- Makes scribbles or marks to convey a message
- Holds writing utensils (e.g., crayon, marker, pencil) with fist grip
- Use fingers and whole-arm movements to manipulate and explore objects

HEALTH, SAFETY, AND NUTRITION

- Sleeps on a toddler-sized cot
- Eats a variety of table foods
- Stops in response to “no”