



Typical Development By the Time Your Child is Three

Cognitive Development	Speech and Language Development	Social Emotional Development	Motor Development and Self-Help Skills
Sorts by shapes and colors	Produces some consonant sounds including p, b, m, n, t, d, h, w	Imitates behavior of adults and peers	Turns a door knob
Begins pretend play	Speaks clearly enough so that at least half of what is said is understood by others	Plays with other children	Goes up and down stairs one step at a time
Listens to books and stories	Uses a rapidly growing vocabulary that could contain as much as 1000 words	Works with an adult on an activity for 5 minutes	Kicks and catches a large ball Pedals tricycle
Completes puzzles of 3 – 4 pieces	Produces vowel sounds and uses some plurals Uses pronouns: I, me, we, you	Participates in simple group activities	Drawings include straight lines and circular loops
Matches objects to pictures	Understands the concepts of on, in, under	Uses the word “mine” to indicate ownership Shares items when directed by adult	Enjoys playing with paint, play dough, sand, water, beans
Points to familiar pictures	Follows simple 2-3 step directions in a routine	Helps others	Turns pages in a book
Activates mechanical toys	Begins to tell personal experiences to others	Greets familiar adults Expresses affection to others	Pulls on/off simple clothes
Understands concept of “two”	Begins to ask and answer simple questions	Recognizes danger	Washes and dries hands with help
States age	Recognizes family names	Knows own name, gender and age	Drinks from a glass and uses a spoon to feed self
	Identifies basic body parts	Separates from parent	Puts away toys