

Your child's stages of development

One year olds...

Children grow and change so rapidly from birth to age one, it is difficult to describe them.

By age one, most children

- identify and react to others' emotions
- play games like pattycake and peek-a-boo
- sit up without support
- imitate sounds
- recognize their name
- wave bye bye
- crawl
- may walk
- have no sense of caution
- pull themselves to a standing position
- feed themselves small pieces of food
- show interest in other children

Two year olds...

Two year olds are struggling to be independent, yet they are still very dependent.

General traits of a two year old are

- assert independence
- demand attention
- favourite word...NO!
- has tantrums
- hits and bites
- easily distracted
- self-centred and possessive
- need help dressing and undressing
- affectionate
- may develop fears
- constantly on the go
- can jump
- can throw a ball
- learn many new words
- adorable, although for some, this is only when they sleep!

Three year olds...

Children want to please their parents, particularly from around age three and a half to puberty.

General traits are

- still say no a lot, but are more cooperative
- favourite word is WHY?
- attention span is increasing
- begin to play with other children
- active imagination
- can repeat short nursery rhymes and understand simple stories
- speak in short sentences
- learning to share and wait for their turn
- imitate others
- very active
- need help in dressing
- can wash and dry hands and face

While two year olds are at one of the cutest stages, they can be a real trial to live with. This is the age of transition between infancy and childhood.

Three year olds are learning to do more things for themselves. They want to please their parents. It is critical they be able to please you.

If you are too difficult to please, they give up and become rebellious or withdrawn.

Revised 05/2006



Children's Aid Society
LONDON & MIDDLESEX
La Société d'aide à l'enfance

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*Four year olds are easier to manage than
twos and threes
...unless you have become locked
into a power struggle*

Four year olds...

General traits of four year olds are

- able to express themselves in words, complete sentences and conversations
- ask constant questions
- very imaginative
- recognize colours
- can match sizes, shapes and colours
- play well with other children
- boss and criticize others
- may be afraid of the dark, thunder and animals
- enjoy playing with puppets, dolls, dress-up and cars
- learning right from left
- like physical activity
- can go up and down a short ladder
- throw balls overhand
- balance is good
- can dress alone, manage buttons and shoelaces
- able to cut with scissors
- begin to form letters, sometimes backwards

Five year olds...

General traits of five year olds

- can speak clearly
- memory improving
- attention span longer
- generally cooperative and reliable
- want to help
- count well
- can learn own phone number and address
- play cooperatively with friends
- want to fit in and feel accepted
- curious
- gaining self-control
- sensitivity to others increasing
- still have fears
- can print own name
- can retell stories and make up stories
- have good balance and physical coordination
- able to work with tools
- beginning to tie shoelaces

*Remember...these are just guidelines...
children develop at their own pace*

Source
Child Welfare League of America Website

Revised 05/2006



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