



## TODDLERS HAVE SUPER POWERS

By Liz Hansen

My son started walking, and it opened up a whole new world—a world where he could now access the dog at will and climb up the kitchen island when something shiny caught his attention (like knives). This kid hasn't even hit twenty pounds yet, but he has no trouble keeping me and my husband's combined 300 pounds on the move every waking hour. It really isn't human. In fact, it's superhuman.

Science backs me up on this. To start, my son can hear higher frequencies than I—something he shares with the dog. In addition to super-human hearing, he's ambidextrous. Most toddlers can use both hands equally, without preference. This may explain why my son likes a utensil in each hand at mealtimes; he can fling oatmeal and applesauce with comparable force using either hand.

My son's brain is working overtime too. A toddler brain has something like 100 trillion synapses. That's twice the connections between cells in an adult brain. In fact, between ages one and two, the cerebral cortex adds more than 2 million new synapses every second. If that blows your mind, just consider how their little minds are nearly exploding with new possibilities every single moment. It might even help explain the instant meltdown triggered when you

veto a second cup of chocolate milk.

Along with the rapidly forming brain connections comes an explosion of new language. While my son isn't talking much yet, he understands hundreds of words. Within the next six months, he'll likely start to pick up five new vocabulary words every day. That's about one word every two waking hours.

And returning to what makes a toddler a toddler—getting around on their feet—kids age one and two take faster steps than we do. They make up for their limited stride with super speed. In fact, a two-year-old is more active than they will be at any other point in their lives. We're bracing ourselves for that wild—and certainly messy—ride.

Though he wasn't bitten by a spider or irradiated with gamma rays, my son has been clearly gifted with superpowers. And if you have a toddler, God has gifted them with superior abilities, too. So take a deep breath, put on your running shoes, pour another cup of coffee (which you won't finish hot), and don't miss it. This phase is equipping them for the rest of their lives.

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## BIBLE STORY

### JONAH 1:1–3:10

God uses a large fish to teach Jonah that going God's way is always the best way.

## SAY THIS

**WHOSE WAY IS PERFECT?  
GOD'S WAY IS PERFECT.**

## DO THIS



### MORNING TIME

When you go into your child's room this month, say, "Good morning! I see someone God loves! Who do I see? (Pause.) Yes, I see [child's name]! God loves [child's name]!"



### DRIVE TIME

As you drive, encourage your child to pretend to drive [his/her] own imaginary car. Each time you make a turn, say, "We're going this way," and, "Now we're going this way." When you get where you're going, say, "We go God's way because God's way is perfect!"



### CUDDLE TIME

Cuddle up with your child this month and pray, "Dear God, I know You love us and Your way is perfect. Help me to trust and follow Your way so I can lead [child's name] to follow Your way too. I want [him/her] to know that because You love us so much, we can always trust to go Your way. I love You, God. In Jesus' name, amen."



### BATH TIME

Add shaving cream to the side of the tub this month. Say, "This is the way we spread it flat. This is the way we make a circle." Continue showing your child "the way" to make smiley faces, straight lines, and dots. (Keep it simple.) Tell your child that we should always go God's way because God's way is perfect.

**BASIC  
TRUTH**

**GOD LOVES ME.**