

# Southminster Preschool Developmental Milestones

## Two Year Olds (24-36 Months)

Children develop at their own pace, so it's impossible to tell exactly when yours will learn a given skill. The developmental milestones below will give you a general idea of the changes you can expect as your child gets older, but don't be alarmed if your child takes a slightly different course.

### Social and Emotional

- Imitates behavior of others, especially adults and older children
- More aware of herself as separate from others
- More excited about company of other children
- Can not sit still for long
- Begins simple pretend games
- Adaptability to changes in the environment
- Beginning to demonstrate parallel play
- Developing cooperative play
- Awareness of the needs of others

### Emotional

- Demonstrates increasing independence and assertiveness
- Begins to show defiant behavior
- Separation anxiety increases toward midyear then fades
- Noisily expresses feelings and needs
- Still needs security but developing self-soothing behaviors
- Developing ability to be patient
- Able to express opinions and feelings appropriately

### Cognitive

- Identifies some colors and shapes
- Begins to sort by shapes and colors
- Identifies changes in familiar patterns
- Begins make-believe play
- May show preference for right or left hand
- Begins to form simple concepts (big/small, in/out) and quantities
- Joins in simple songs
- Makes purposeful circular scribbles
- Begins to think in words and symbols
- Begins to think of something before doing it

### Language

- Points and/or recognizes objects, familiar people, and body parts
- Says several single words (by 15 to 18 months)
- Uses simple phrases (by 18 to 24 months)
- Follows 1 -2 consecutive, simple directions
- Expands vocabulary from 15 to 500 words
- Repeats words overheard in conversation
- Able to effectively communicate 2 -4 word sentences to non-family members

## Movement

- Walks alone
- Pulls toys behind her while walking
- Throws objects
- Carries large toy or several toys while walking
- Begins to run & jump with two feet together
- Stands on tiptoe
- Learning to catch and kick a ball
- Learning to paddle a trike or bike
- Climbs onto and down from furniture unassisted
- Walks up and down stairs holding on to support

## Hand and Finger Skills

- Scribbles independently
- Turns over container to pour out contents
- Builds tower of four blocks or more
- Might use one hand more often than the other
- Takes things apart
- Learning to roll playdough with fingers and hands

## Developmental Watch

- Cannot walk by 18 months
- Fails to develop a mature heel-toe walking pattern after several months of walking, or walks only on his toes
- Does not speak at least 15 words
- Does not use two-word sentences by age 2
- By 15 months, does not seem to know the function of common household objects (brush, telephone, bell, fork, spoon)
- Does not imitate actions or words by the end of this period
- Does not follow simple instructions by age 2
- Cannot push a wheeled toy by age 2
- Experiences a dramatic loss of skills he or she once had
- Will not make eye contact when spoken to
- Can not be understood clearly by non-family members
- Unable to express anger appropriately
- Involved in isolated play most of the time
- Over sensitivity to the environment
- Unable to scribble purposefully
- Selective mutism