

## Social-Emotional Development at 2 Months



- Your baby is really smiling at you and others now.
- Your baby is not crying as much as she was as a newborn.
- Your baby uses different cries to tell you when he is hungry, uncomfortable, or sick.
- Your baby “talks” to you with noises and gurgles.
- Your baby looks at your face and may look in your eyes, but only for a few seconds at first.
- Your baby lets you know she is happy by cooing, smiling, laughing, and gurgling.
- Your baby likes to be with people and is becoming more interactive with you.
- Your baby is learning about eating and sleeping times, but it will take a few months for him to know the routine.
- Your baby likes to be picked up, hugged, and cuddled by people she knows.
- Sometimes your baby will be fussy only because he wants your attention.
- Your baby likes to play with her fingers, hands, feet, and toes.
- Your baby feels safe in your arms and enjoys your hugs.
- Your baby can recognize familiar people by their voices.

## Social-Emotional Development at 6 Months



- Your baby responds to your smile and sometimes laughs when looking at you.
- Your baby responds to your soothing and comforting and loves to be touched or held close.
- Your baby responds to your affection and may begin to show you signs of affection.
- Your baby's vision is improving, and she is getting more curious about what she sees. She enjoys watching other babies and children.
- Your baby focuses on your voice and turns his head toward your voice. He may turn to you when you call his name.
- Your baby may be frightened by loud or unfamiliar noises.
- Your baby sometimes likes quiet and being soothed. Other times, she likes talking and playing.
- Your baby enjoys learning simple games such as Peekaboo.
- Your baby will sometimes stop crying when you talk to him rather than pick him up.
- Your baby sometimes sucks on her fingers or hands to calm herself down.
- Your baby plays with sounds and may babble by putting sounds together such as "ma-ma-ma," "ba-ba," and "da-da-da."
- A lot of the time, your baby wants you and no one else!

## Social-Emotional Development at 12 Months



- Your baby responds to her name when you call her.
- Your baby is interested in other babies and children.
- Your baby shows many emotions, such as happiness, sadness, discomfort, and anger.
- Your baby may be shy around new people or seem jealous if you pay attention to someone else. He may need some time to watch and warm up to new people and new places.
- Your baby may have fears, such as fear of falling, darkness, large animals, loud sounds, or changes in routines.
- Your baby responds differently to strangers than she does to family members and friends she sees a lot.
- Your baby wants you in his sight all the time. He may get upset when you leave him with someone else.
- Your baby imitates other children and adults. She may imitate sounds, actions, and facial expressions.
- Your baby gives affection by hugging and kissing. He may hug or kiss you, familiar children and adults, pets, or stuffed animals.
- Your baby watches other people. She may respond to someone's pain by crying or showing distress.
- Your baby is beginning to show his likes and dislikes. He may push things away that he does not like. He may feel attached to a special toy or blanket.
- Your baby is becoming more independent. She may seem stubborn or frustrated when she cannot do something herself.

## Social-Emotional Development at 18 Months



- Your toddler is generally happy and smiles at people, including other children.
- Your toddler likes to talk and is using more words every day.
- Your toddler likes to show affection and give hugs and kisses.
- Your toddler is showing different emotions such as fear, sympathy, modesty, guilt, or embarrassment.
- Your toddler likes to do things by himself. He may seem stubborn, but this is normal.
- Your toddler likes to help with simple household tasks.
- Your toddler turns to you for help when she is in trouble.
- Your toddler enjoys playing near other children but not with them yet.
- Your toddler may hand toys to other children, but he does not understand how to share and wants the toys right back.
- Your toddler can play by herself for short periods of time.
- Your toddler has specific likes and dislikes.
- Your toddler likes to say, "No!" He may have a quick temper and sometimes hits when frustrated.
- Your toddler loves to be held and read to and becomes upset when separated from you.
- Your toddler loves to imitate others.
- Your toddler likes to be the center of attention.
- Your toddler recognizes herself in pictures or mirrors.

## Social-Emotional Development at 24 Months



- Your toddler likes to imitate you, other adults, and her friends.
- Your toddler wants to do everything by himself, even though he can't!
- Some of your toddler's favorite words are *mine*, *no*, and *me do it*.
- Your toddler has many emotions, and her emotions can be very "big." She can get angry and have temper tantrums.
- Your toddler likes to imitate you doing household tasks. He can put some of his toys away with help from you.
- Your toddler loves to try new things and explore new places. But she wants to know you are nearby to keep her safe.
- Your toddler is very interested in other children. He is still learning how to play with them.
- Your toddler will play nearby other children but not really with them. She does not understand how to share her things yet.
- Your toddler has a hard time waiting and wants things right now.
- Your toddler loves attention from familiar adults and children but may act shy around strangers.
- Your toddler shows affection by returning a hug or kiss. He tries to comfort familiar people who are in distress.
- Your toddler knows her name and knows what she likes and dislikes. She may be very attached to certain things, such as a special book, toy, or blanket.
- Your toddler enjoys simple pretend play. He may like pretending to cook or talk on the telephone.
- Your toddler is learning about the routines in your home but often does not remember rules.

## Social-Emotional Development at 30 Months



- Your child likes using her growing imagination. She likes to play with puppets, dress-up clothes, dolls, and play figures.
- Your child is beginning to understand others' feelings. He is learning to identify when another child is angry or happy.
- Your child is beginning to learn about sharing. She does not always share but can sometimes.
- Your child is getting louder and bossier at times. He may talk with a loud, urgent voice.
- Your child can follow simple routine directions such as "Bring me your cup" and "Please go in your room and get your socks."
- Your child enjoys hearing songs and stories—sometimes over and over again.
- Your child wants to be independent sometimes but also wants you nearby. She will now easily leave your side if she is in familiar surroundings.
- Your child can identify if he thinks he is a boy or a girl.
- Your child greets familiar adults and is happy to see friends.
- Your child sometimes screams and throws temper tantrums.
- Your child likes to be hugged and cuddled—but not in the middle of playtime.

## Social-Emotional Development at 36 Months



- Your child is more independent and can do many things for herself. Your child will tell you, "I can do it myself!"
- Your child is still learning to follow simple rules, although he sometimes needs gentle reminders.
- Your child now plays briefly *with* other children. She is still learning about sharing and taking turns.
- Your child likely has a special friend that he prefers playing with. Boys may prefer playing with boys, and girls with girls.
- Your child is becoming more independent. When you go on outings, she will not always hold your hand or stay by your side.
- Your child's emotions may shift suddenly, from happy to sad or from mad to silly. He's learning how to handle his emotions.
- Your child can sometimes use words to express her feelings.
- Your child is beginning to think about other people's feelings and is learning to identify their feelings, too.
- Your child uses imagination to create stories through pretend play with dolls, toy telephones, and action figures.
- Your child sometimes bosses people around and makes demands. This shows that he is independent and values himself. He might do something that he is asked to do, but he is more willing if he thinks it is his idea.
- Your child may be fearful and sometimes has nightmares. Scary images and sounds, even cartoons, can give her nightmares.
- Your child's attention span is increasing. She often stays with an activity for at least 5 minutes.

## Social-Emotional Development at 48 Months



- Your child likes to play with other children and has favorite games and playmates.
- Your child is beginning to share. He takes turns but is possessive of favorite toys.
- Your child expresses extreme emotions at times—happiness, sadness, anger, silliness. She may be able to label her own feelings.
- When your child plays, he often uses real-life situations, such as going to the store, school, and gas station.
- Your child may have imaginary friends when playing games, sleeping at night, and going to preschool.
- Your child now understands short and simple rules at home.
- Your child is starting to understand danger. She knows when to stay away from dangerous things.
- Your child loves silly jokes and has a sense of humor.
- Your child is beginning to control his feelings of frustration.
- Your child may use her imagination a lot, and she can be very creative.
- Your child is becoming more independent and adventurous. He may like to try new things.
- With her new independence, your child can be boastful and bossy at times.
- Your child shows concern and sympathy for younger siblings and playmates when they are hurt or upset. His ability to empathize—to put himself in someone else's shoes—is increasing.
- Your child's attention span is increasing. She often stays with an activity for at least 10 minutes.



## Social-Emotional Development at 60 Months



- Your child likes to play best with one or two other children at a time.
- Your child likes to choose his own friends and may have a best friend.
- Your child now plays simple games such as Candy Land and Go Fish.
- Your child may play with small groups of children at the park or at school.
- Your child understands and can follow simple rules at home and at school.
- Your child shows a variety of emotions. She may be jealous of other children at times, especially of a younger brother or sister who is getting attention.
- Your child is now very independent and likes to make his own choices about clothes to wear, foods to eat, and activities in which to be involved.
- Your child is sensitive to other children's feelings. She can identify other people's feelings: "She's sad."
- Your child likes to talk with familiar adults and children.
- Your child understands how to take turns and share at home and at school, but he may not want to all of the time.
- Your child is beginning to understand the meaning of right and wrong. She does not always do what is right, though.
- Adult approval is very important to your child. Your child looks to adults for attention and praise.
- Your child is showing some self-control in group situations and can wait for his turn or stand in a line.
- Your child is usually able to respond to requests such as "Use your quiet voice" or "Inside is for walking."
- Your child's attention span is increasing. She is able to focus her attention for a necessary length of time, such as listening to directions or a story.

## Social-Emotional Development for Young Children 54-72 Months Old



- Your child likes to play best with one or two other children at a time.
- Your child likes to choose his own friends and may have a best friend.
- Your child now plays simple games such as Candy Land and Go Fish.
- Your child may play with small groups of children at the park or at school.
- Your child understands and can follow simple rules at home and at school.
- Your child shows a variety of emotions. She may be jealous of other children at times, especially of a younger brother or sister who is getting attention.
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