



General Developmental Milestones for Children Ages 12 – 36 Months

Pre-academic/learning skills that typically develop between 12 and 24 months of age include:

- Following one-step directions involving familiar objects and activities (e.g., “Give me the bear.”)
- Understanding that he/she can cause things to happen (e.g., make a sound on a toy by pushing a button)
- Exploring objects and looking for hidden object
- Imitating simple actions

Pre-academic/learning skills that typically develop between 24 and 36 months of age include:

- Matching familiar objects
- Matching objects by color, shape, and size
- Putting together simple shape or form boards
- Assembling simple puzzles (e.g., 2 - 4 piece puzzles)
- Pointing to pictures of common objects when they are named
- Counting 1, 2, 3

Social and play skills that typically develop between 12 and 24 months of age include:

- Playing by self
- Watching others
- Imitating housework and other adult actions (e.g., feeding a doll)
- Expressing wants, needs, and emotions with facial expressions, single words, and short phrases
- Spontaneously showing affection for others
- Carrying, dumping, and pouring

Social and play skills that typically develop between 24 and 36 months of age include:

- Playing near other children (not necessarily in the same activity)
 - Watching and showing interest in other children
 - Building with blocks
 - Playing with water or sand
 - Claiming and defending possession
 - Joining in simple group activities (e.g., clapping, singing, etc.)
 - Beginning to engage in domestic play (e.g., dress up, tea parties, etc.)
 - Identifying one’s self in a mirror
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Self-help skills that typically develop between 12 and 24 months of age:

- Using a spoon with some spilling
- Drinking from a sippy cup and open cup
- Passively cooperating in dressing and undressing
- Beginning to take off shoes

Self-help skills that typically develop between 24 and 36 months of age:

- Opening doors by turning handles
- Putting coat on/taking coat off
- Using a spoon with little or no spilling
- Washing and drying hands with assistance
- Helping with simple household chores (e.g., taking plate to sink after eating)
- Beginning to toilet-train

