

# Developmental Milestones 30–36 Months



## Cognitive Skills

- Tries to play act thoughts and ideas.
- Counts three objects.
- Matches and sorts similar pictures and objects.
- Enjoys creative movement.
- Child can remember what happened yesterday.
- Acts out own stories.
- Becoming a “logical thinker.

## Sensory and Perceptual Skills

- Tolerates a variety of environmental noises
- Points to show things to an adult or child
- Tolerates new environments and a variety of public settings



## Language Skills

- Uses language to express thoughts and feelings.
- Asks a lot of questions
- Repeats five word sentences.
- Talks to himself or herself about recent events and make believe characters.
- Uses social words: "please," "thank you," "hello."
- Names most body parts.
- By age 3, child may use as many as 900 words.
- Child understands sentences with two or more ideas
- Know his/her first and last name.

## Gross Motor Skills

- Takes part in group activities that include running, galloping, crawling, rolling over, and twirling around.
- Walks on a narrow beam, putting one foot in front of the other for a few steps.
- Climbs the ladder of a slide or other play equipment.
- Can pedal a tricycle and steer well.
- Walk forward and backward on a narrow beam.
- Kick a ball so it sometimes goes where he wants.
- Throw a ball overhand with fairly good aim.
- Take part in circle games with many players, such as musical chairs, hokey pokey, or The Farmer in the Dell.

## Fine Motor Skills

- Holds a pencil as if to print.
- Copies drawings of a cross, circles, dots, small lines, and swirls.
- Cuts paper with small safety scissors.
- However, your toddler may not be able to cut along a line.
- Turns pages of a book one at a time.
- Scribble with pencils, crayons, and markers.
- Draw squiggles and claim it's her name.
- Play with different manipulative toys (toys that your toddler can hold and move), such as connecting straws, snap blocks, or folding paper.

## Social-Emotional Skills and Social Participation

- Will like playing with other children. They may have one or two close friends.
- Notice how people are the same and different— like their skin color and size.
- Know and respond to other people's feelings.
- Want approval and praise.
- Create an imaginary friend to talk to.
- Be more comfortable around new adults.
- Develop skills such as taking turns, sharing, and using words instead of fighting.
- Explains feelings when asked about them.

## ADL & IADL Skills

- Can put on socks and slip on shoes (will need help with right/left shoes)
- Can put on their shirts and pants (may need help with buttons)
- Wash and dry their hands
- Brush teeth with help
- Can do some large buttons on clothes
- Toilet independently (need help with wiping)
- Able to feed themselves (with kid forks and spoons)



## Play Skills

- Plays make believe and likes to imitate mom/dad
- Able to pedal and ride a tricycle
- Able to climb and play on play equipment (climb stairs/ladder)
- Able to dance, throw ball overhanded, and kick a ball forward

