

By 3 years...

A child typically:

- ✓ Changes moods quickly, especially with major changes in routine
- ✓ Becomes more affectionate and sensitive of other people's feelings
- ✓ Enjoys pretending to play different characters
- ✓ May be bossy
- ✓ Starts playing with other children, and likes some better than others
- ✓ May throw temper tantrums
- ✓ Can often stay with one activity for at least five minutes
- ✓ Is starting to share and take turns
- ✓ Understands that some things are "mine" and some are not
- ✓ Makes simple choices for himself
- ✓ Is able to separate from you much more easily
- ✓ Knows her name, age and sex
- ✓ Answers "who," "what" and "where" questions easily
- ✓ Uses 4 to 5 word sentences like, "I want to go outside," or "I don't like it!"



What kind of behavior should I be concerned about?

- Doesn't look at you
- Shows limited facial expressions
- Show little interest in toys or other children
- Cannot focus on one activity for longer than three minutes
- Doesn't know how to "pretend"
- Hurts himself, like by biting himself or head banging
- Has a very difficult time separating from you
- Does not let you know when he or she is hurt
- Does not understand simple instructions
- Uses no two-word phrases (without imitating or repeating)
- Loses speech or social skills

Things to help your THREE-YEAR-OLD with his or her social and emotional development:

- ✓ Play and have lots of fun together
- ✓ Read and talk a lot about how different people or characters in stories feel about things
- ✓ Give words to feelings saying things like, "When you hit that shows me you're mad," or "You're smiling...are you happy?"
- ✓ Have a special reading time each day, and slowly lengthen the stories so she can sit a little longer
- ✓ Play games using simple two-step directions
- ✓ Allow your child to do more for herself
- ✓ Tell your child often that he or she is fun, awesome, and a good helper