



Characteristics of Twos

Every child develops in a unique way. At any given chronological age, children's developmental differences will vary greatly. But here are some basic developmental guidelines to help you become both a better observer and a more effective teacher.

Physical

Twos are able to walk, climb, scribble on paper, build block towers, fill a container with small objects and turn pages in a book. Although large muscles are fairly well developed, twos often stumble and fall. They move all the time!

Small muscles are not yet well developed. Twos are often in the process of being potty trained. They enjoy simple songs with movement and large-muscle activities. Give them plenty of room to roam as well as quiet-time activities.

Cognitive and Emotional

Twos have a short attention span, and they learn best through using all their senses. A two is often eager to do things without help and uses "no" frequently—it's part of the process of developing an individual identity. Twos may say many words and some simple sentences and possibly recognize their names in print. Twos enjoy retelling a story or activity, which increases their sense of mastery.

Social

Twos have very little concept of other people's rights or feelings. "MINE!" is a favorite word. Use distraction and redirection instead of reasoning, when there are disputes. Twos play mainly by themselves or play alongside, but not with, other children. Get on their eye level. Talk about what you see them doing to help them know you notice them and love them.

Spiritual

Twos can learn that God made everything, that God cares about them, that Jesus is God's Son, that the Bible is God's special book and that Bible stories are true. Talk and sing to them often about God!