

Developmental Characteristics of Children

Age	Physical	Intellectual	Language (First Language)	Social and emotional
1-2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Squat down to pick up object from the floor without falling. ✓ Walk with quick steps or even run. ✓ Carry or pull along toys while walking. ✓ Build towers of 4 or more bricks/blocks. ✓ Turn several pages of book at a time but cannot turn page by page. ✓ Turn knobs and unscrew bottle cap. ✓ Put pegs into holes. ✓ Scribble with crayon. ✓ Able to drink with a sucking tube. ✓ Try feeding self with spoon and drinking from cup. ✓ Able to take off shoes. ✓ Able to pick up small objects like pins, threads, etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Begin to sort objects by shapes and sizes. ✓ Enjoy pretend play, initially involving only him/herself then gradually involving others. ✓ Start learning to solve problems with trial and error. ✓ Able to identify him/herself and his family members in the mirror or from a picture. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Point to body parts in response to naming. ✓ Recognize names of familiar people and objects. ✓ Follow simple instructions. ✓ Say single words, first mainly nouns and then verbs. ✓ Start combining words. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Being self-centered. ✓ Enjoy watching and being around other children, usually older ones. ✓ Show possessiveness and compete for toys. ✓ Use gesture or speech to show his/her needs and to direct your attention to his interest. ✓ Learn to play with others in an interactive way (towards the latter half of this period). ✓ Imitate behaviours and activities of others, especially adults and other kids.

Age	Physical	Intellectual	Language (First Language)	Social and emotional	Arts
2-3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Able to pull and push objects or step backwards. ✓ Able to pile up pieces of toy bricks. ✓ Gradually able to kick a ball. ✓ Gradually able to throw a ball into a basket. ✓ Able to unwrap sweets. ✓ Able to thread big beads. ✓ Try folding papers and using scissors. ✓ Know how to play with clay with their hands. ✓ Gradually able to draw lines and circles. ✓ Able to turn pages of a book. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Begin to know their own names. ✓ Begin to learn matching by colours, shapes, objects and sizes. ✓ With repeated attempts, able to put five rings onto a stick in sequence of their sizes. ✓ Know about the names and functions of some body parts. ✓ Perform role play like imitating a doctor etc. ✓ Able to assemble puzzles of three to five pieces. ✓ Begin to understand the meaning of numbers one and two. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Able to follow instructions to find an object. ✓ Able to name each body part. ✓ Able to understand common nouns, verbs and adjectives. ✓ Able to express their wishes with limited words and short sentences. ✓ Try singing nursery rhymes by imitation. ✓ Know to ask with "what". 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Know how to express the need for toileting. ✓ Able to go to toilet on their own under prompting. ✓ With adult's assistance, able to wash hands, put on/pull down their pants, take off their clothes, shoes and socks. ✓ Able to take turns with peers under instruction by adults. ✓ Like to follow routines, dislike changes. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Begin to explore different art media and symbols. ✓ Able to use their senses and body actions to express their emotions and feelings. ✓ Develop aesthetic sensitivity and creativity.

Adapted from: Guide to the Pre-primary Curriculum, 2006