

# TODDLERS & TWOS LEARNING AND GROWING TOGETHER

## TYPICAL FOR THIS AGE

## CHILD'S PERSPECTIVE

## PARENT'S PERSPECTIVE

## LEARNING & GROWING STRATEGIES

My Way!  
Egocentrism

I do it "my way" (or no way).  
If it feels good to me, it must be good.  
I am the center of attention and the reason for everything.

My child has become a tyrant!  
I cannot always let my child "do it" her way.  
If I explained it - why can't my child understand it?

**Times and places to give your child choices.**

**Times and places to set clear & distinct boundaries.**

**Rational explanations ineffective**

No! No! No!  
Time of Oppositional Behavior

"No" means "I am".  
I want to try to think for myself.  
I learn who I am by pushing my mom away and testing limits.

I feel challenged, rejected and embarrassed.  
I AM the parent. I DESERVE respect (Don't I?)

**Simple and consistent rules**

**Patient, hands-on guidance**

**Choose your battles.**

Mine! Mine! Mine!  
Issues of Territoriality

"If I'm holding it, standing on it or see it, it's mine!"  
Everytime I say "it's mine", I discover where I fit in the world  
I must first "own" it before I can "let it go" or "share it".

Where did my sweet baby go?  
I'm embarrassed around others.  
I feel like I didn't teach my child the right things.  
I get angry when my child is mean to others.

**Recognize some objects are special and cannot be shared.**

**Clarify goals of sharing.**

**Developmental identity issues are not about "stuff".**

**Establish behavior boundaries.**

Me Do It!  
Independence

I'm ready for the world - bring on bigger challenges and more responsibility.

I am so proud of my child!  
I can do it so much faster!  
I can do it better myself!

**Take the time to teach now.**

**In a year or two, your child will have skills and self-reliance.**

Getting Along with Others

I like being around kids (even if I'm just watching).  
I am just learning what to do when I'm excited or mad (I may try to bite, hit, grab, push).

I want my child to "be nice"  
Are boys really rougher?  
Do girls need extra protection?  
Give me THE answer NOW!

**Social learning takes time.**

**Observe what children can "work out"; stay close to help .**

**Teach strength and feelings.**

Taking Care of Myself and Potty Learning

Wow...Look at my body!  
I can get dressed myself, wash myself, brush my teeth...  
I'm learning about pottyng.

Pressure Pressure Pressure  
Is it ok if it's not perfect?  
How do I "potty train"?  
Will I make my child neurotic?

**Respect and honor child's individual development.**

**Build on small successes.**

**Focus on learning not "training" or rewards.**