Activities for Toddlers 20-24 Months Old

ASQ-3™

Toddlers enjoy looking at old pictures of themselves. Tell simple stories about him as you look at the pictures. Talk about what was happening when the picture was taken.	Cut a rectangular hole in the top of a shoebox. Let your toddler insert an old deck of playing cards or used envelopes. The box is easy storage for your toddler's "mail."	Set up your own bowling game using plastic tumblers, tennis ball cans, or empty plastic bottles for bowling pins. Show your toddler how to roll the ball to knock down the pins. Then let your toddler try.	Many everyday items (socks, spoons, shoes, mittens) can help your toddler learn about matching. Hold up an object, and ask if she can find one like yours. Name the objects while playing the game.	Hide a loudly ticking clock or a softly playing transistor radio in a room and have your child find it. Take turns by letting him hide and you find.
A good body parts song is "Head, Shoulders, Knees, and Toes." Get more detailed with body parts by naming teeth, eyebrows, fingernails, and so forth.	Make your toddler an outdoor "paint" set by using a large wide paint brush and a bowl or bucket of water. Your toddler will have fun "painting" the side of the house, a fence, or the front porch.	Turn objects upside down (books, cups, shoes) and see if your toddler notices they're wrong and turns them back the right way. Your toddler will begin to enjoy playing "silly" games.	Give your toddler some of your old clothes (hats, shirts, scarves, purses, necklaces, sunglasses) to use for dress up. Make sure your toddler sees herself in the mirror. Ask her to tell you who is all dressed up.	Use plastic farm animals or stuffed animals to tell the Old McDonald story. Use sound effects!
Make grocery sack blocks by filling large paper grocery sacks about half full with shredded or crumpled newspaper. Fold the top of the sack over and tape it shut. Your toddler will enjoy tearing and crumpling the paper and stuffing the sacks. The blocks are great for stacking and building. Avoid newsprint contact with mouth. Wash hands after this activity.	"Dress up" clothes offer extra practice for putting on and taking off shirts, pants, shoes, and socks. Toddlers can fasten big zippers and buttons.	Put small containers, spoons, measuring cups, funnels, a bucket, shovels, and a colander into a sandbox. Don't forget to include cars and trucks to drive on sand roads.	Rhymes and songs with actions are popular at this age. "Itsy-Bitsy Spider," "I'm a Little Teapot," and "Where Is Thumbkin?" are usual favorites. Make up your own using your toddler's name in the song.	Make your own playdough by mixing 2 cups flour and 3/4 cup salt. Add 1/2 cup water and 2 tablespoons salad oil. Knead well until it's smooth; add food coloring, and knead until color is fully blended. Toddlers will love squishing, squeezing, and pounding the dough.
Playing beside or around other children the same age is fun but usually requires adult supervision. Trips to the park are good ways to begin practicing interacting with other children.	Play the "show me" game when looking at books. Ask your toddler to find an object in a picture. Take turns. Let your toddler ask you to find an object in a picture. Let him turn the pages.	Add a few Ping-Pong balls to your toddler's bath toys. Play a "pop up" game by showing your toddler how balls pop back up after holding them under the water and letting go.	Clean plastic containers with push or screw-on lids are great places to "hide" a favorite object or treat. Toddlers will practice pulling and twisting them to solve the "problem" of getting the object. Watch to see if your toddler asks you to help.	Make a book by pasting different textures on each page. Materials such as sandpaper, feathers, cotton balls, nylon, silk, and buttons lend themselves to words such as *rough, smooth, hard,* and *soft.*

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