



Supportive Environments for Infants, Toddlers, and Twos

“Childhood is not a race to see how quickly a child can read, write, and count. It is a small window of time to learn and develop at a pace that is right for each individual child. Earlier is not better.”

Quote by Magda Gerber, author of *Your Self-Confident Baby: How to Encourage Your Child’s Natural Abilities – From the Very Start*”

By **understanding** the **primary developmental needs** of young children, we can provide them with supportive environments to optimize growth and development and enhance their overall well-being.

Young infants thrive when they form strong, **secure** bonds with nurturing and responsive adults. They construct meaning from the experiences they have within relationships.

Mobile infants are motivated by **discovery**. Their mobility allows them to explore and engage more with people, materials, and the environment.

Toddlers build meaning through relationships with people and materials. They are motivated by **autonomy** and thrive in environments where trusted caregivers allow them to make choices.

Twos have gained tremendous physical skills and are eager to begin figuring out who they are related to their new abilities. They are motivated by **identity** and begin developing strong preferences. They become increasingly aware of differences and similarities between themselves and others.

Children are curious, capable, and competent at ALL developmental levels!

Primary Developmental Needs of Children from Birth to Age 3



PROFESSIONAL RESOURCE

**Infants & Toddlers at Play:
Choosing the Right Stuff
for Learning &
Development**

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